

THE  
ARCHITECT  
& BUILDING NEWS

*S.B.*

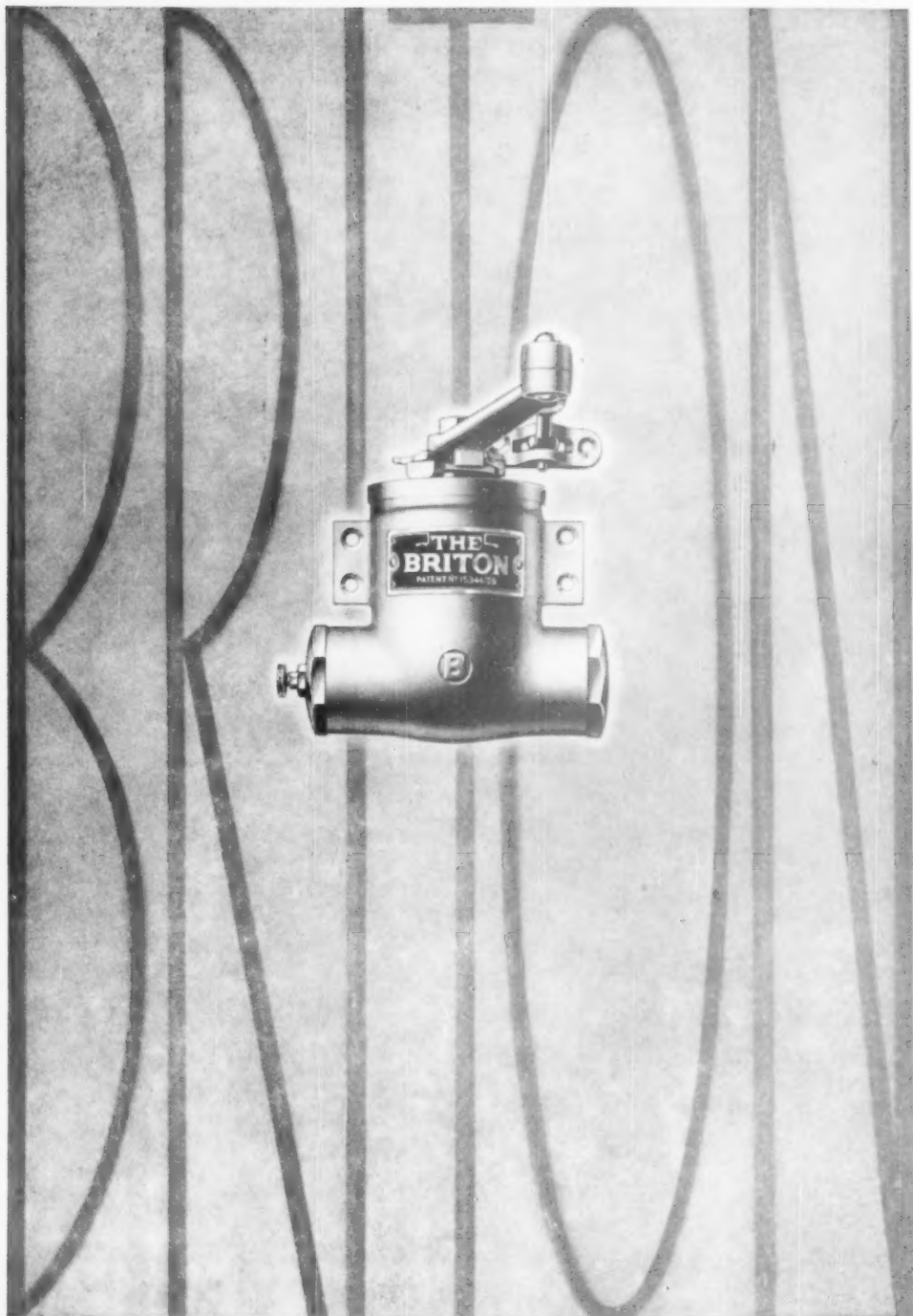
*In this issue*

REVIEW OF THE DANISH ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION

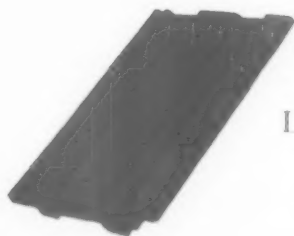
FLATS AT ACTON

HOUSE AT SOLIHULL

MARCH 10, 1950 · VOL 197 · NO 4238 : ONE SHILLING WEEKLY



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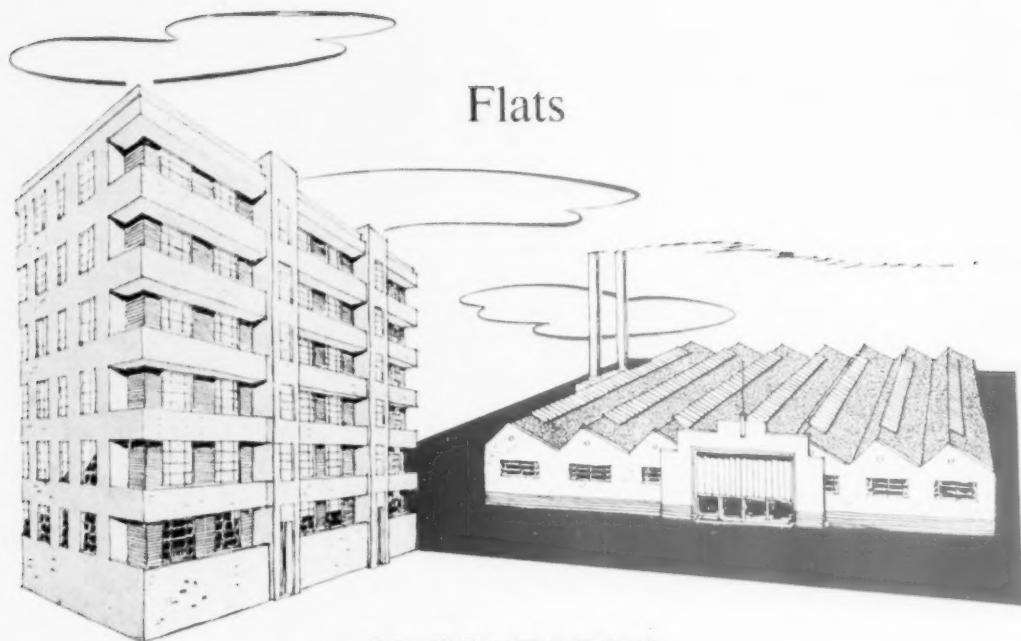
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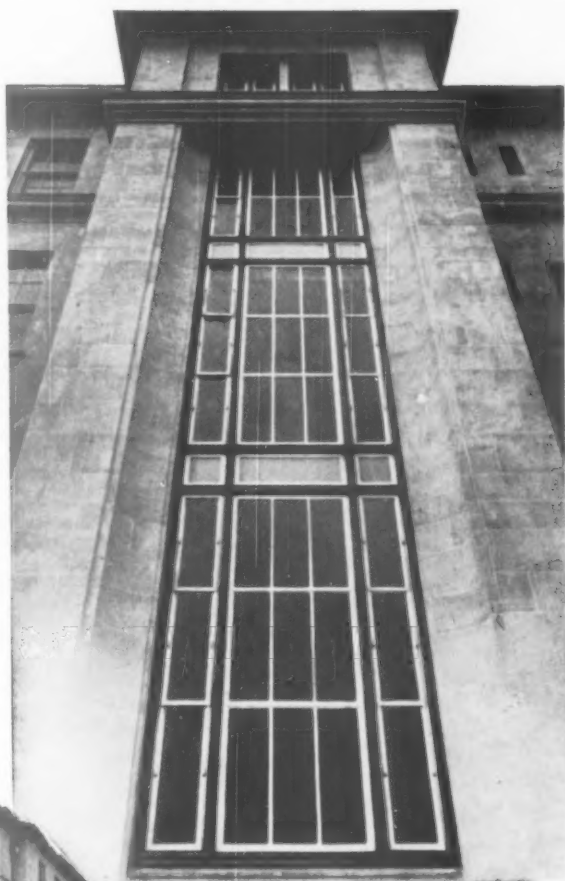
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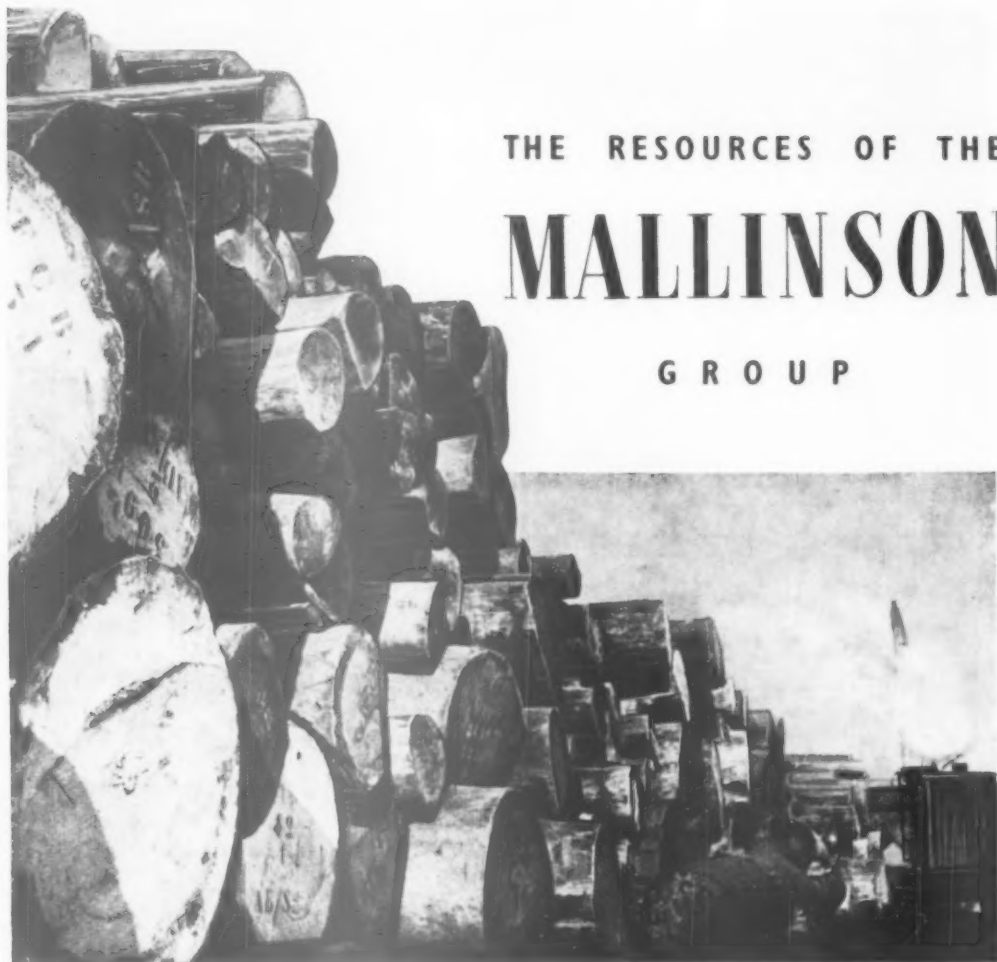
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*This drawing of zinc sprayers at work in Reliance works, Chester, was drawn by Miss Ruth Harle and forms part of a series "Window Makers at Work" by artists commissioned by Williams & Williams Ltd.*

Daily this gunman sprays  
one ton of steel window frames with  
100 lbs. of molten zinc. The coil of zinc wire  
is drawn from the cylinder into the spray-gun,  
melted and sprayed in one operation.

This—and other anti-corrosion treatments in  
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of Williams & Williams—make sure  
that good windows stay good.

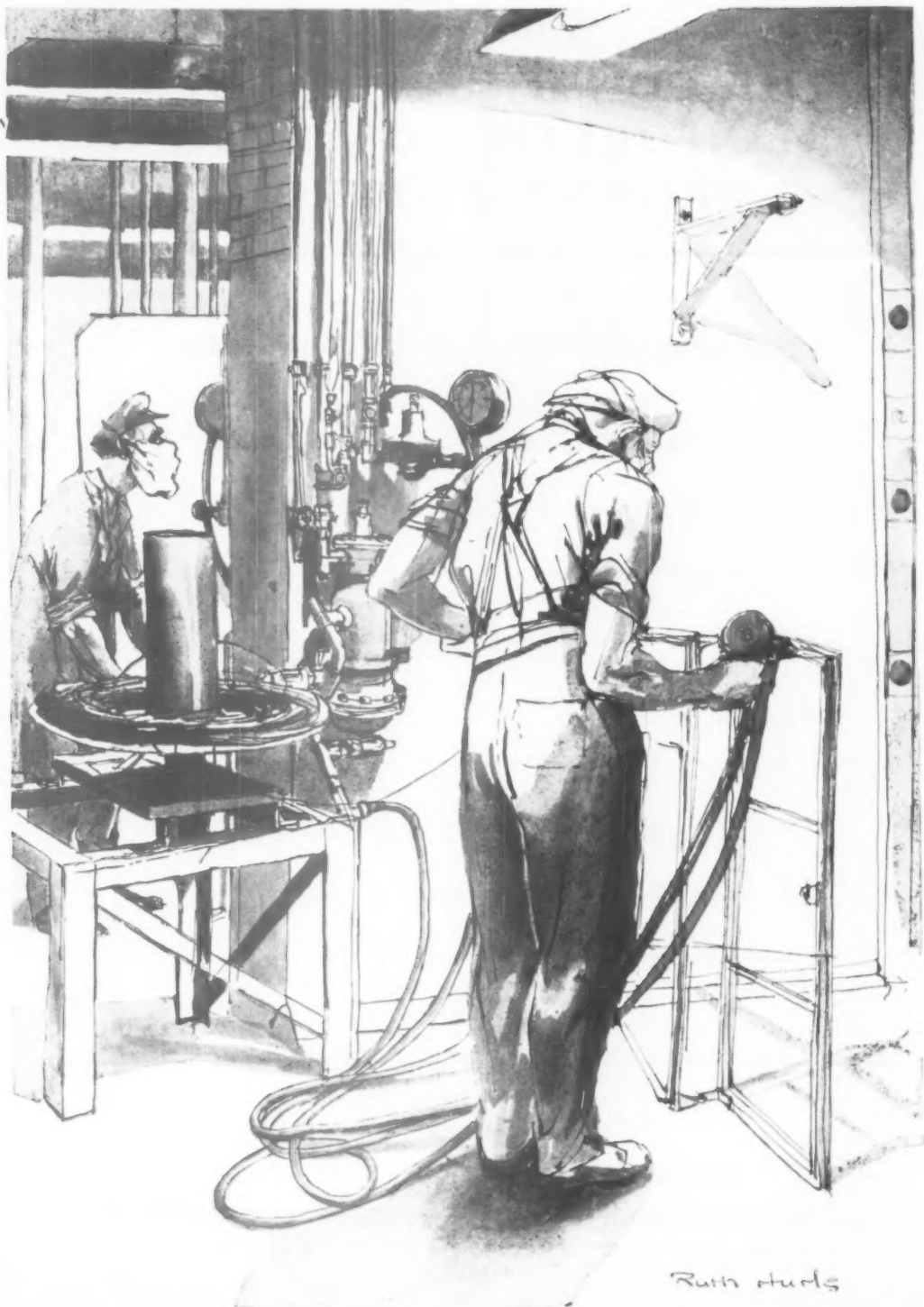
And the firm's service continues up to  
the day the Architect, seeing the windows  
in his building, says

"Now get busy on my next job."

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*Metal Window and Door Manufacturers*

RELIANCE WORKS, CHESTER





## Notes on THE CONSTRUCTION OF REINFORCED CONCRETE GROUND FLOORS

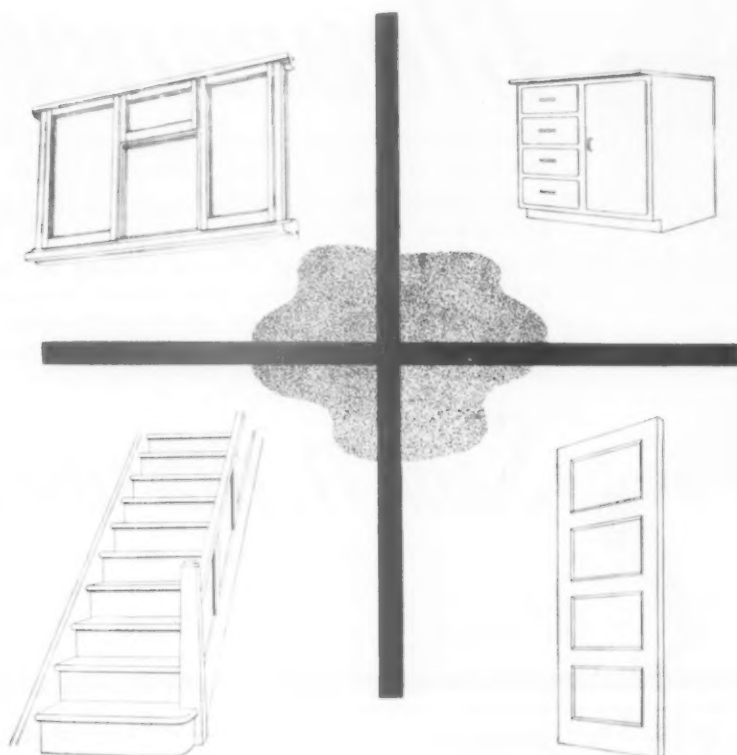
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- 1 The floor can be laid in panels of 40 ft. long by 20 ft. wide reinforced with oblong mesh.
  - 2 The panels may be 30 ft. square when reinforced with square mesh.
  - 3 The reinforcement is supported one inch above the bottom of the slab.
  - 4 The panels are separated by strips of waterproof paper or thin bituminous sheeting.
  - 5 When the floors cover a large area joints at about 60 ft. intervals should be filled with elastic jointing strips.
  - 6 The concrete is made in the proportions of 1 cwt. cement to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cu. ft. of fine aggregate and 5 cu. ft. of coarse aggregate and no more water than required to make a plastic workable concrete.  
If the sand is damp the quantity must be slightly increased to allow for bulking.
  - 7 When the concrete is vibrated a very dry mix of concrete must be used.
  - 8 The concrete may be laid directly on the ground if it is sand or gravel.
  - 9 On clay sites a layer of ashes should be rolled into the formation.
  - 10 It is always an advantage to place waterproof paper under the slab to prevent loss of water from the concrete in the ground.
- 

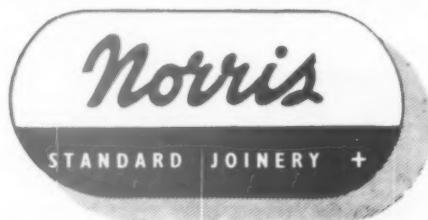
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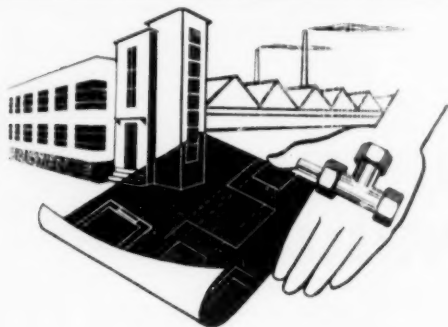
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*Illustrated in this issue.*

Architects: Messrs. Culpin & Sons.

THE STRAMIT SYSTEM



Illustration shows a STRAMIT partition erected for George Wimpey & Co., Ltd., in the Punched Cards Section of their Accounts Department, Askew Road, Shepherds Bush.

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for sound reduction  
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for rigidity with  
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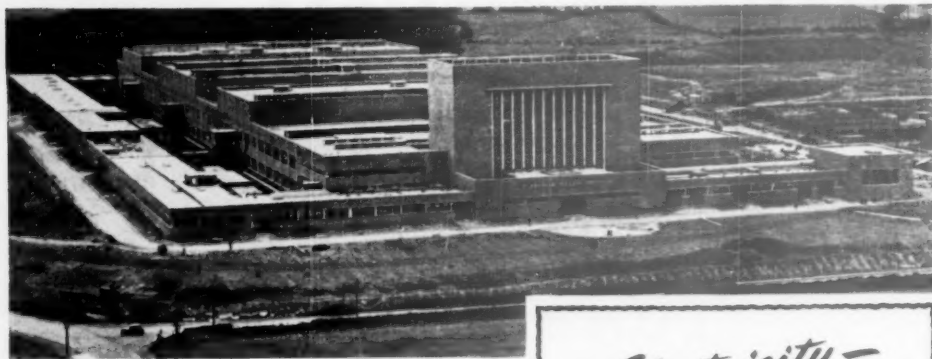
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more power  
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Painting by Eric Foust, F.S.A.



## TRADE WINDS No 7

### HAKLUYT'S PROUD DEDICATION

Under the far-sighted and spirited encouragement of Queen Elizabeth, English commerce expanded apace. Venice had abandoned the struggle and Antwerp was involved in the Wars of the Spanish Netherlands; Amsterdam and the rebel Dutch had not yet established themselves.

The pioneering spirit of the English, fast becoming an unrivalled tradition throughout the world, was effectively summed up in 1589 by Hakluyt in the proud dedication of his "Voyages."

"Which of the Kings of this land before her Majesty, had their banners ever seen in the Caspian sea? Which of them hath ever dealt with the Emperor of Persia as her Majesty hath done, and obtained for her merchants large and loving privileges? Who ever saw, before this regiment, an English Ligier in the stately porch of the Grand Signor at Constantinople? Who ever found English Consuls and Agents at Tripoli in Syria, at Aleppo, at Babylon, at Bakara, and, which is more, who ever heard of Englishmen at Goa before now? What English ship did heretofore ever anchor in the mighty river of Plate? Pass and repass the unpassable (in former opinion) strait of Megellan, range along the coast of Chili, Peru and all the backside of Nova Hispania, further than any Christian ever passed, traverse the mighty breadth of the South Sea, land upon the Luzzones, in despite of the enemy, enter into alliance, amity and traffic with the Princes of Maluccas, and the isle of Java, double the famous Cape of Bona Speranza, arrive at the isle of St. Helena, and last of all return home richly laden with the commodities of China, as the subjects of this now flourishing monarch have done?"



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See 6/1

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SIMPLIFIED CONSTRUCTION

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Here are some of the NEW features of the latest Ascot product:

**Total enclosure.** Cleaning is easier but consumer interference with controls more difficult. The shell is quickly removed for maintenance purposes.

**Fewer Controls.** Maintenance is simplified and costs lowered.

**Reinforced rubber diaphragm.** Ensures longer life.

**Larger bore inlet and outlet bends.** Possibility of blockage by scale is reduced.

**Stronger heating body and improved construction of joints.** Body life is lengthened. Heat transference is improved. Body will better withstand increases in water pressure to which it may be subjected.

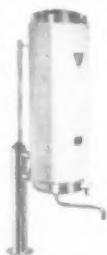
**New burner connections.** Maintenance is facilitated and risk of damage to burner tube and pilot assembly is reduced. The burner can be removed without dismantling pilot assembly.

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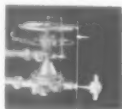
**Support pillar.** Heater can be easily fitted to a special freestanding support pillar, offered as an extra in chromium or nickel finish.

## MORE ROBUST · MORE ACCESSIBLE

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THE  
**ARCHITECT**  
& BUILDING NEWS

March 10, 1950

The "Architect and Building News" incorporates the "Architect," founded in 1869, and the "Building News," founded in 1854. The annual subscription, inland and overseas, is £2 15s. 0d post paid; U.S.A. and Canada \$9.00. Published by ILIFFE & SONS LTD., DORSET HOUSE, STAMFORD STREET, LONDON, S.E.1. Telephone: WATERLOO 3333 (50 lines). Telegrams: "ARCHITONIA, SEDIST, LONDON." Branch Offices: Coventry: 8-10 Corporation Street; Birmingham: King Edward House, New Street; Manchester: 260 Deansgate, Tel. Blackfriars 4412 (3 lines), Deansgate 3595 (2 lines); Glasgow: 268 Renfield Street.

## THE NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL

THE Minister of Education has again announced that the cost of schools must be reduced. The economic difficulties of the country cannot but reflect on the expansion of its educational services and, as in those of housing and health, a challenge is issued to cut the coat to suit the cloth.

The economic side can be expressed simply by saying that the cost of secondary schools in 1951 must be reduced to a standard of £240 a place; it was £320 in 1949. A complimentary figure for new primary schools will be £140 a place.

In some part the challenge has been met by the issue of the Ministry's Building Bulletin No. 2; this is concerned with new secondary schools, though in particular and, by way of illustration, it deals with secondary-modern schools. We are told investigations are continuing and will be published.

Certain things seem to stick out from the procedure so far adopted by the Ministry as being slightly out of sequence. Although certain interim amendments have been issued, the Regulations for Standards for Schools, issued in 1945, have not yet been revised. The hope of the Minister seems to be that the recommendations of Bulletin No. 2 shall form the basis for planning which will, at the same time, allow a freedom for authorities to exercise initiative and to experiment. We know the Regulations are now well advanced in revision, but how much will the new experiments hold up and alter again the new regulations? Regulations must always be based on experience and not on theory, but how old should the experience be—what is the period of trial? And, incidentally, what mechanism exists for continuous

observation of results over a period of years to the end that regulations shall always be revised on a basis of practice?

The Bulletin follows quickly on the heels of No. 1 (Primary Schools) which was published in November of last year. There is no doubt that it is necessary to move quickly in these matters and we think the Ministry can be congratulated on doing so. The information and recommendations they now issue are less formal than rigid regulations and probably reach a wider audience than more official documents.

In spite of that horrific phrase in its Introduction, which urges approach to the problems "through a rethinking of fundamentals," there is no doubt that a great deal of thought and a real "heart-searching" has gone to the making up of the new Bulletin and it is to be welcomed as a vital and necessary aid at the present time. Certain fashions in planning and current adherencies to bungalow sprawls have been thrown over, and by means of a renewed and practical examination of requirements, certain things have emerged. Even though they are sometimes things which many know already—by real experience—to be true and fundamental; as for example, that bungalows cost more than storied buildings (within limits), that circulation spaces should be well under 50 per cent., instead of over 60 per cent., as is the case with many of the post-war schools.

The economies which the Bulletin recommends are under three main heads; in the area of buildings, by elimination of waste space, redundant space and the use of space for more than one purpose and for most of the time; in building technique, by the use of new

ideas or the keener exploitation of old methods—without unwise lowering of the standards of either safety or amenity; thirdly, in the study and redesign of school furniture and equipment, to the end of greater standardisation by means of multipurpose units. Of these major points only the second is dependent on factors more or less entirely outside the control of the Ministry. Economy and reduction of the cost of buildings is, as we have pointed out before, the wide concern of the building industry, it cannot be solved by new materials and new techniques alone.

There is a hint in Appendix 3 (though we do not find it stressed much elsewhere) that, behind some of the "re-thinking" that has gone to the compilation of this Bulletin, there is a tendency to plan on a modular system of square units; the module adopted is 3 ft. 4 in., which is about half the linear unit originally recommended for the planning of post-war schools. We are glad to see that this latter cumbersome "standard" has been discarded. How much the new proposed module will contribute to all-round economy in building and in the production of components is dependent on how universal the use of such a module becomes; its adoption, or something like it, seems an obvious sheet-anchor for planning and for much standardisation throughout the building industry and in the manufacture of materials and components.

We hope, in the near future, to publish a detailed summary and analytical comments on the new Bulletin and its recommendations.

\* \* \*

WE are "intrigued" by the change of ministers at the Ministry of Town and Country Planning. What will happen now? Is it merely a "caretaker" state of things? Mr. Silkin, the last Minister, was a worthy carrier of the portfolio; he progressed towards many developments and if, in the doing, was inclined to inflexibility and even, on occasion, dogmatism, he must be credited with piloting the greatest Act for planning ever passed. To say that its faults and loopholes are becoming apparent is not to decry the Act, but to point its complexity and to urge its review and continuance.

How will the National Parks programme be influenced by the interests of the new Minister? We have made adverse comments in the past on the adopted regional administration; we would still maintain that there is much to be done to clear up the issues of the service-lands, of mass-produced afforestation, open-cast workings, public access and holiday camps.

As Mr. Clough Williams-Ellis said last month, at the Institute of Landscape Architects, "National Parks are, or should be, *Natural* parks—and don't let's forget it."

## EVENTS AND COMMENTS

### DESIGN IN BUSINESS PRINTING

THE current C.I.D. exhibition at Murray House is to my mind the most successful that the Council has yet put on. Designed for travelling, the exhibition is well and simply presented and has the great advantage of having excellent material to show.

The exhibition is arranged jointly by the C.I.D. and the British Federation of Master Printers, and the exhib-

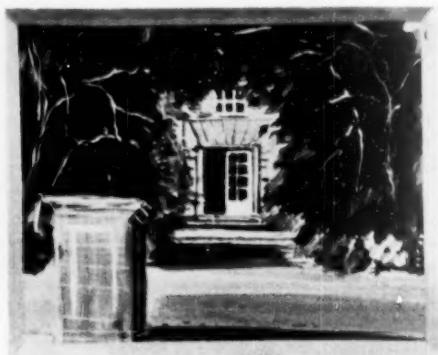
its range from stationery to posters, omitting only press advertisements and posters larger than 30 x 20 in.

I was surprised at the great variety not only of ideas but of uses to which good printing has been put in the business world. It seems that the value of good printing is appreciated perhaps more readily than good design in other things.

Almost every well known body using good printing is represented, and the organisers are to be congratulated on obtaining such a comprehensive collection. To my surprise, I could find nothing from the B.B.C. I asked why and was told that they had been invited to submit examples but somehow never did. This is a great pity, for, with London Transport, the B.B.C. has done a very great deal for good printing.

Printing, like most other things, is affected by changes in fashion, but I would say that only a very small portion of the examples shown could be described as fashionable printing: the remainder will hold their own at any time.

Quoting an unnamed speaker, the preface to the catalogue of the exhibition says: "Responsibility for the success or failure of a piece of printing rests ultimately on the man who ordered," and then points out that "the business men who order good printing deserve as much credit as the artists and technicians whom they set to work." Those who do not order good printing may learn useful lessons from this display. Well done the C.I.D., the B.F.M.P., and the unnamed designer of the show.



From the exhibition of drawings by Hugh Casson now at the Building Centre



The new Ministers of Works and Town & Country Planning

The exhibition is open until April 6, week-days 10 to 5, and Saturdays 10 to 12.

#### NEW MINISTERS

**I** WELCOME the new Minister of Works, Mr. R. R. Stokes, who is an industrialist with great experience. I expect him to make his presence felt in his Ministry, in spite of the Government's slender majority. Mr. Dalton at the Ministry of Town and Country Planning is, I think, also a change for the better. Good luck to both of them.

#### HATE DEPARTMENT

**W**HARFEDALE Rural Council has decided not to take part in the M.O.H. competition for the best housing estates. Mr. William Whiteley, the chairman, commenting on the decision, said, "If less time was spent in arranging design and more effort made to get plans through ministerial departments, the housing position throughout the country would be in a better state."

Speaking at a meeting of the Westbere Parish Council, Mr. H. V. Young, the chairman, said of the Festival of Britain, "It is an utterly ridiculous proposition. We are in a bankrupt state, and I don't think it will do a bit of good. I am not prepared to spend a penny on supporting it. If things were rosy, yes, but not now."

Under the heading "Industrial Design: Must We Accept Dictatorship," the *Electrical Review* lashes out at the C.I.D.:

"It is impossible to believe that any radical improvement in the design of British products can be brought about by any attempt of such a body (the C.I.D.) to tell the British manufacturer what he should produce and how he should produce it. . . . By all means let us pursue education in the principles of good design, but when manufacturers cannot show their products at the 1951 Festival of Britain unless they are approved by the Council of Industrial Design, then we feel that this is a form of dictatorship which industry ought to resent and resist."

#### U.N.O. BUILDING

**A** COLUMN of *The Times* last week was devoted to the United Nations H.Q. building. The correspondent pointed out that although the building will be paid for by all member nations, not one dollar of the 42 million so far contracted for had been spent outside

the U.S.A. The project from architect downwards appears to be entirely American and, as *The Times* says, "has been accepted as a pleasant windfall for New York State and New York City."

Since a special Act was passed by Congress to permit the importation of foreign materials for use in the building, it seems that an all-American building was not intended.

British firms have made bids for various sub-contracts, but have so far failed every time, although it is said that at least one firm put in the lowest price in its category. *The Times* correspondent further alleges that the time given for submitting bids for materials and equipment is insufficient to allow foreign firms to compete.

All this is most unfortunate, but in some ways one



From the exhibition of drawings by Hugh Casson at the Building Centre

can sympathise with those responsible; it must be much less trouble to get everything at home.

#### N.F.M.S. AND L.C.E.

**I** HAVE received an appreciative letter from the President of the National Federation of Master Steeplejacks and Lightning Conductor Engineers following my remarks some weeks ago. He states that his Federation were treated with great respect and consideration by the Chief Inspector of Factories and his colleague and that the negotiations were a pleasure. I quote the last paragraph from his letter because I think it deserves attention.

"I am very surprised that architects do not make more use of the steeplejack, especially in preliminary examinations. In most cases these examinations are made by the head of the firm engaged, who has had years of experience, and knowledge handed down from



From the exhibition of drawings by Hugh Casson

father to son, and who can sort of smell defects, or, maybe, just knows where to look for trouble."

#### ANSWER TO PROFESSOR RICHARDSON

**F**OLLOWING last month's critical attack on the Festival of Britain competition by Professor Richardson in *Building*, the editor of that paper has wisely published an antidote in the form of an answer by Robert Lutyens. Mr. Lutyens takes the Professor firmly by the hand, or is it the coat collar? and points out that this sort of witty sniping is not criticism and that it is unbecoming in an architect, let alone a teacher of architecture, to vent his spite against younger members of his profession.

Professor Richardson has been in full cry elsewhere, first at the Architecture Club, where I understand he was very funny at the expense of plywood, and secondly as President and Chairman of the National Amenities Council.

The Council, through the Professor and Lord Horder, has submitted plans for the enlargement of the South Bank site to the Festival authorities, and is now asking for an interview with the Lord Mayor of London to suggest ways in which it considers the Festival might be improved. In view of these moves it is not surprising to hear that the Council is also pressing for a postponement of the Festival till 1952. Mr. Tom Braddock supports this suggestion and compares the Festival with the groundnuts scheme, which he says was also embarked upon without adequate thought. Mr. Braddock would also make some "improvements" to the scheme by closing Charing Cross station and using Hungerford Bridge as exhibition galleries.

This sort of talk just over a year before the Festival is due to open is senseless and does no one any good; least of all does it help the Festival authorities, already up to their ears in the scheme.

#### CASSON SPEAKS

**H**UGH Casson's paper on the South Bank Exhibition at the R.I.B.A. on Tuesday, was a best-seller; indeed, only with difficulty could seats be found for Gerald Barry, Howard Lobb and Gordon Russell. I particularly liked Mr. Casson's address because of its

mixture of gaiety and good sense. No high-flown nonsense—he only used the words integration and penetration once—plenty of enthusiasm and a firm hand with the critics—he referred to Professor Richardson's attack as "a well directed broadside of gripe-shot."

Sir Patrick Abercrombie, eternally youthful, gave his blessing to the young men who are producing the exhibition, but not without a dig or two, and Mr. John Murray Easton flashed his rapier in support. It was certainly one of the better R.I.B.A. evenings.

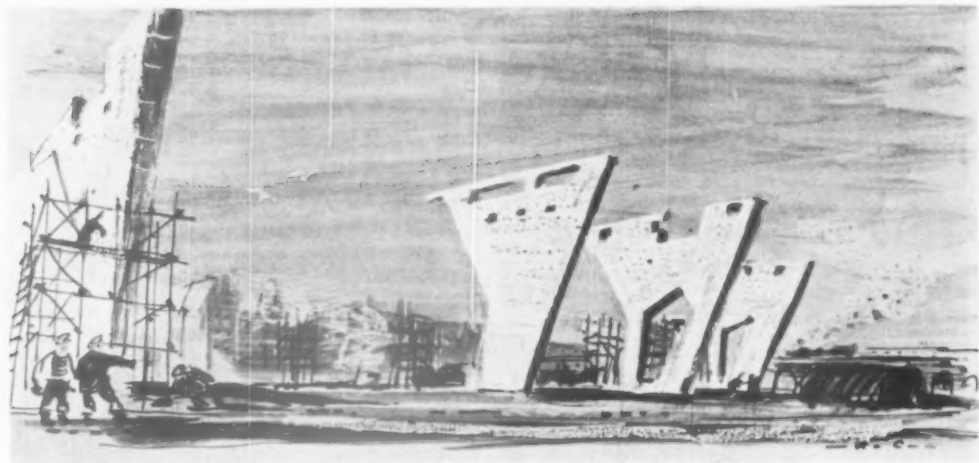
#### IDEAL HOMES

**T**HERE are five houses in the "Empire Village of Ideal Homes." Two of the home products are reasonable and the New Zealand bungalow has quite a lot to recommend it. The remaining two are most remarkable; one has stained glass in almost every window and in the bathroom has fish on the window curtains, tiled walls and bath panel, and a frieze of geese above the tiling. The other is a bungalow with a squat random rubble chimney. The furnishing of both these houses will be admired by ninety-nine per cent. of visitors. The furnishing of the Unity house, one of the first two mentioned above, with ceiling heights of 7ft. 6in., has been carried out by the C.I.D. and is very well done. The furniture of the New Zealand bungalow is by Maples, and shows, I think, that some people at any rate take notice of the C.I.D.'s teaching.

Sergei Kadleigh's central feature has some excellent masts and banners in aluminium, but I found the general effect of the parabolic arch and its filling rather confusing. It is, however, very much better than any of its predecessors.

Many of the stands are gay but many are not. I thought that Schweppes' display was as charming a piece of nonsense as I have seen for a long time, and Maconochies showed tinned food in an attractive new way.

Most remarkable of all was the fact that everything was finished and not a workman to be seen at 12 noon on the day before the public opening. Congratulations all round, with a special pat for the aluminium fabricators and erectors.



At the Building Centre. The exhibition closes to-morrow.

## NEWS OF THE WEEK

### Shoreham and Lancing Beaches Part Development Plan

The Minister of Town and Country Planning has now formally approved the Shoreham and Lancing Beaches Part Development Plan, the necessary seal and signature having been appended to the formal documents on February 21, 1950.

This plan is understood to be the first Part Development Plan to have been submitted under Section 5 (5) of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, and to have received formal approval.

The Comprehensive Development Plan covers an area of approximately 550 acres, of which about 200 will be developed for residential purposes. Before the war the beaches were developed in part by bungalows, mainly constructed of short-lived materials, and used principally for holiday purposes. Over 400 of the buildings were demolished in 1941-1942 for military defence purposes.

The West Sussex County Council unsuccessfully promoted a Bill in the House of Lords in 1946 to deal with this area. Subsequently, adequate general powers became available under the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act, and the plan was submitted to the Minister in October, 1948, in advance of the main plan for the county. A public local inquiry was held by the Minister in February, 1949, and occupied five days. After discussions and conferences with all concerned, the plan has now been approved generally on the lines submitted by the County Council, the main amendment being the exclusion of certain lands in the freehold ownership of other local authorities. The area designated

for compulsory acquisition amounts to approximately 450 acres.

The West Sussex County Council propose to redevelop the area mainly as a residential area and are extending the open spaces. Their ultimate plan will leave the sea front open and available for the general public practically all the way from the Harbour entrance to the Borough of Worthing. Building plots will be made available and will be let on long lease. The County Council have already established an estate office in the area, in order to deal with all inquiries expeditiously.

### L.M.B.A. President's Remarks

The new President of the L.M.B.A., Mr. Richard Costain, C.B.E., speaking at a luncheon of the North Western Area of the Association said "It is still the builders, not the politicians, who build the houses and the factories and the shops and the schools for which every political party was claiming credit during the election. Politicians don't build, no matter what party they belong to."

Mr. Costain went on to say that apart from increased mechanisation and more efficient management the road to better, quicker and cheaper building lay in the more intelligent use of incentives, the better training of men in the industry, and a greater degree of co-operation among all sections of the industry.

Sir Gerald Kelly, P.R.A. has accepted nomination for election as an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute.

A supper of the Architecture Club was held at the Hermitage Restaurant, Dover Street, on Wednesday, March 1,

followed by a debate on the question, "Can the Craftsman Survive?"

Viscount Escher presided and the debate was opened by Professor A. E. Richardson, R.A., F.R.I.B.A., and Mr. Frederick Gibberd, F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I.

The Corporation of Glasgow may consider the appointment of a city architect and town planner. The present vacancy in the position of master of works and city engineer has given the opportunity for discussion of the proposal in committee.

During the year ending March 31, the City of Liverpool has spent £2,451,185 on their permanent housing schemes. For the following year the sum of £3,580,500 has been allotted for expenditure on housing.

The National Parks Commission has appointed as its Secretary, Mr. Harold M. Abrahams, the well-known athlete who represented Britain in the Olympic Games in 1920, 1924 and 1928 and won the 100 metres in 1924.

The Minister of Town and Country Planning, the Rt. Hon. Hugh Dalton, M.P., has appointed Mr. J. D. Jones to be his Private Secretary, Mr. E. S. Foster to be his Assistant Private Secretary, and Mr. George R. Chetwynd, M.P., to be his Parliamentary Private Secretary.

Mr. Eric Morley, F.R.I.B.A., F.R.I.C.S., J.P., has been appointed a member of the board of the Bradford Equitable Building Society.

### ARCHITECT'S WILL

Mr. Gilbert Vernon Sharp, registered architect, of Brighouse, near Huddersfield, who died on August 13 last, left £16,563.







With few exceptions, this work is carried out in extruded light alloy section, either solution treated or fully heat treated, light alloy tube, and specially rolled aluminium sheet.

The parabolic arch is constructed in such a way that it will carry a distributed load of 29 tons in all, i.e. one ton at each of the 29 lattice junctions. The motifs within the parabola are suspended on  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. high-tensile steel cable and are in 20 gauge aluminium sheet, pop-riveted to a light skeleton structure of aluminium angle and tee; these are painted on all sides.

The banners are from rolled 24 gauge aluminium

sheet painted and are suspended from specially designed cradles to maintain their shape.

The vaulting to the stalls consists of a series of tubular arches and lattice beams spanning 36 ft., roofed over with blue and white muslin. The columns are 3 in. tubular aluminium, clad with a special tapered hexagonal aluminium sheath painted in alternate black and white stripes; the bases to the columns and all special distance pieces and washers for connections at the top of the columns are in cast aluminium.

The whole assembly was expressly designed for rapid erection and dismantling.

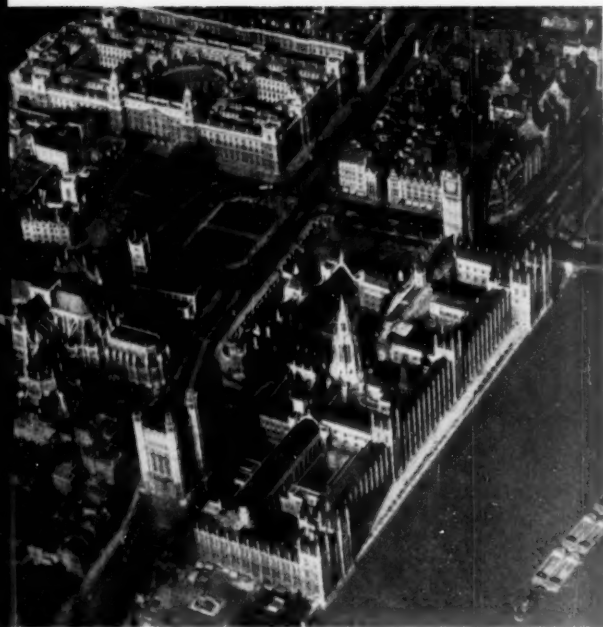
THE DESIGNER WAS SERGEI KADLEIGH, A.A. (HONS.) DIPL., A.R.I.B.A.

GENERAL CONTRACTORS: OLYMPIA LIMITED

SPECIALIST SUB-CONTRACTORS FOR ALL METALWORK: J. STARKIE GARDNER LIMITED

HOME EXHIBITION, OLYMPIA





Left: Parliament Square decorated for the opening of Parliament and the visit of the French President.  
Right: The South-Bank Exhibition site, which M. Auriol visited on Wednesday. The progress on the Concert Hall is well brought out from the air.

## COMING EVENTS

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

- March 13, at 5.30 p.m. Ordinary General Meeting. "Practical Application of Modern Research into the Properties of Wood." Speaker: Dr. H. E. Desch.

March 14, at 7 p.m. Annual Dinner at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, W.1.

I.D.A.

- March 13, at 7.15 p.m. At University of Reading. "Timber and the Builder." Speaker: F. D. Silvester.

March 13, at 6.45 p.m. At Leeds College of Commerce. "Veneers—Modern Manufacture and Application." Speaker: L. C. W. Jenkins.

March 13, at 7.30 p.m. At Cambridge Technical College. "New Timbers and Their Uses." Speaker: B. A. Jay.

March 15, at 7 p.m. At Blackburn Technical College. "Planning" (Part 1). Speaker: H. Clayton.

March 16, at 7 p.m. At Burton Agnes Council School (Driffield District Wheelwrights) "Pests and Diseases in Timber." Speaker: J. Jowett.

I.M.B.A.

- March 14, at 2.30 p.m. South-Eastern Area General Meeting, Black Horse Hotel, Sidcup. Speaker: Mr. R. Nott. Subject: "The Work of the Building Centre."

Housing Centre

- March 14, at 1.15 p.m. "Housing in the U.S.S.R." Speaker: J. D. Bernal.

R.I.B.A.

- March 14, at 6 p.m. "Light Alloys as Structural Materials." Speaker: G. Wood.

Ministry of Works

- March 14, at 7 p.m. at Walker Hall, Technical College, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury. "Prestressed Concrete Developments at Ministry of Works Field Test Unit." Speaker: O. J. Masterman.

March 15, at 7 p.m. At Technical College, Union Street, Burton-on-Trent. "Mechanisation of Small Jobs." Speaker: J. F. Eden.

R.S.A.

- March 15, at 5.15 p.m. "The London Pub in the London Scene." Speaker: Lt.-Col. John Codrington.

## EXHIBITION

The Main Hall at the College of Art, The Newarke, Leicester, is being used for the Annual Exhibition of the School of Architecture, Leicester College of Art. This is the first public exhibition since the School Diploma was recognised for Final A.R.I.B.A. and A.R.C.U.K. Exemption, and it is to be opened by Howard Robertson, M.C., F.R.I.B.A., A.R.A., S.A.D.G., at 3 p.m. on Monday March 13, 1950.

Mr. E. J. Curtis, A.R.I.B.A., has been in charge of the Exhibition arrangements assisted by students in the School of Architecture.

Mr. Leonard Bulmer, I.R.I.B.A., and Mr. Alan Wilson, A.R.I.B.A., have joined Messrs. Johnson & Crabtree, F.R.I.B.A., in partnership. The practice will continue as Johnson & Crabtree, at 20 Priory Place, Doncaster, and at 8 Robert Adam Street, London, W.1.

## OBITUARY

The death occurred on February 14, of Mr. James A. Laird, I.R.I.B.A., late of Kilmacolin, aged 71.

The death occurred on February 24, of Mr. John B. Gladstone, I.R.I.B.A., of Lockerbie. He was 75.

The death has also occurred of Mr. Samuel J. Stainton, F.R.I.B.A., of Olton.

## CORRECTIONS

Steel lintels.

At the top of page 193 in the 4 & B.N. issue February 24, a steel lintel was illustrated with the following caption: "Pressed steel door frames used as lintels have been tested to support a load of 135 lbs. per sq. in. An improved steel lintel shown here will carry a load of 750 lbs. per sq. in." The weights per sq. in. given in this caption are incorrect. Both these loads were suspended centrally from the head of the lintel and the maximum recorded deflection was  $\frac{1}{32}$  in.

Asbestos Cement Products.

On page 198 of the same issue the references to roof and wall claddings in "asbestos," of course, refers to "asbestos cement."

## Festival of Britain Appointment

Mr. Jack Howe, A.R.I.B.A., M.S.I.A., Chartered Architect and Industrial Designer, has been appointed Co-Ordinating Designer for Street Decoration for the Festival of Britain, 1951.

Mr. Howe will work under the direction of the Festival Design Group and in close association with the Ministry of Works, local authorities, British Railways and other bodies concerned with this problem.

Aged 39, Mr. Howe is a member of the R.I.B.A. Exhibitions Committee, the R.I.B.A. Architectural Science Board, the British Standards Co-ordinating Committee and the S.I.A. Industrial Design Executive. He is at present Architectural Consultant to the London County Council (Schools), the Cambridgeshire Educational Committee (in the preparation of the architectural programme for the

new Cambridgeshire Technical College and School of Design); and is Consultant on industrial design to Messrs. Gent and Company Limited of Leicester and the Metropolitan Vickers Electrical Company Limited.

## M.O.T. and C.P. Decision

The Minister of Town and Country Planning has dismissed the appeal by Messrs. Paripan Ltd., Windsor Road, Egham, Surrey, against the refusal of the Surrey County Council to permit alterations and enlargements to the Paripan Works in Windsor Road, Egham.

The site is in the Green Belt adjacent to Runnymede and nearby Cooper's Hill, where stretches of open country have been acquired for the public enjoyment.

The immediate area was described in the Greater London Plan by Sir Patrick Abercrombie in 1944 as "A horrible outbreak of bungalows and, most tragic of all, a big single-story factory" and he asked that a "life"

should be placed on these buildings with a view to their ultimate demolition.

In the letter announcing his decision the Minister has expressed full agreement with the longer term aim of the Surrey and Buckinghamshire County Councils to clear up both banks along this stretch of river and he has no doubt that the eventual removal of the factory from its present site is desirable in the public interest and that any reconstruction should be carried out on some new site. An alternative site close at hand has been suggested.

Mrs. Evelyn Denington has been appointed a member of Stevenage Development Corporation by the Minister of Town and Country Planning.

Mrs. Denington is vice chairman of the L.C.C. Housing Committee and has been chairman of the Co-ordinating Panel of the Housing and Town Planning Committees. Until last April she was chairman of the Town Planning Committee of St. Pancras.

## C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

To the Editor of A. & B.N.

### Housing Standards

Sir,—I have read with considerable interest your excellent editorial of February 17 on this subject and the report of the meeting on the Housing Manual, 1949, held at the Housing Centre on January 31.

The initiative your journal has taken in this important matter and the valuable suggestions made by Mr. Blair Imrie at the Housing Centre meeting prompt me to write you on action already taken by the Eastern Federation of Building Trades Employers which I think may be of interest to your readers.

Once the post-war housing programme got under way, it became clear to my Federation that there were elaborations in the housing specifications of local authorities which would result in high building costs. We sought to place before local authorities and the Ministry of Health numerous suggestions for keeping down costs but these, for several reasons, were not welcomed. We were, in fact, told by the Ministry of Health that local authorities would learn by experience what to include and what to leave out of their specifications. Gaining this experience had been a slow and costly business.

Despite this rebuff, we felt that another attempt should be made to place at the disposal of the country the housebuilding experience of our industry. The Federation's House-builders' Committee then engaged Messrs. Murray Hare and K. G. Pert, Chartered Architects, Ipswich, to design for them a house incorporating all our ideas for keeping down housing costs.

In January of this year we submitted the final plans (with several alternative designs) and a model, to the Ministry of Health who are now considering them. If the design is approved the Federation will make available to every housing authority in East Anglia the necessary plans, specifications and bills of quantities.

It is interesting to note that the proposals made by Mr. Blair Imrie and yourself are among the many incorporated in our designs. We anticipate that we should be able to build ten houses for every nine built at present without any material reduction in existing standards. The benefits of such proposals will, I am certain, be obvious to all your readers. They may not be so obvious to the Ministry of Health.

There is a growing interest in this subject in East Anglia and I was fortunate in being able to submit a paper on Housing Standards to the Eastern Regional Board for Industry some two months ago. This paper dealt with economic and industrial considerations and found a fair measure of support.

My Federation hope that the detailed and painstaking work undertaken by them on this subject will result in more and cheaper houses for our fellow citizens.

I am, etc.

R. W. PORTER,  
Director.

Eastern Federation of Building Trades Employers.

To the Editor of A. & B.N.

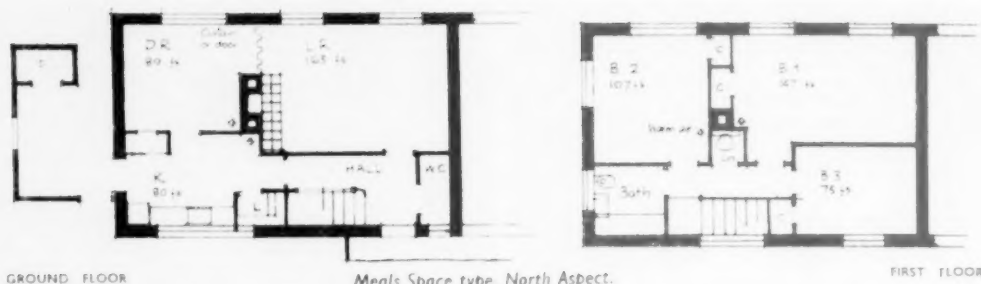
Sir,—Mr. Blair Imrie in his speech at the Housing Centre, gave a good send off to your campaign for economy with efficiency in housing. Much that

he said is so basically true that if discussion in your column ensues, it could usefully be based on his remarks.

The floor area yard stick which has far too long discouraged compactness in general and planning for the four-person family in particular, should be reconsidered. The Ministry must have records of the costs of well-planned houses for all sizes of families and one wonders why there cannot be a total cost ceiling for rural and for urban houses to suit each family category. The appropriate allowances for extra costs made necessary by local conditions could continue to apply. With such a system the emphasis would be on avoidance of waste space and the extra time spent to this end would be felt by architects to be really worth while.

Mr. Imrie's comments on the rural types in the Manual seem to me to be rather less valid though it is true that even the best of them like Figs. 38 and 40 which meet his criticism about uneconomical heating (each house having a single stack) are larger than we find necessary. The fitted washhouse, even where not "barbarously" placed, has lately had to go, and the "weekly wash" brought into a working kitchen in the house itself.

As Mr. Imrie says, the Manual appeared at a time of transition but that being the case it is the more necessary to treat its plans mainly as presentations of ideas to be worked out to suit one's own problems. This is emphasised on page 13 in these words "It is not the intention that the plans in this Manual should absolve local authorities from employing skilled technical advice and there is no suggestion that these plans should be copied as they stand or that they should restrict the



skill and imagination of the architect in the development of as wide a range of types as possible."

Mr. Imrie's interesting plan which he prepared to illustrate in idea rather than provide a complete solution implies that to provide a 20 per cent. saving in building costs at to-day's rates of workmanship, the ideas of the Manual for rural housing would have to be abandoned. He shows the small bedroom fitted up as a study for which purpose its use would be severely limited. He provides a comfortable washhouse-bathroom which, however, is the only access to the w.c. and one

doubts if this would be a working arrangement for a family of 5 or even 4 persons, especially as the w.c. is rather far from the stairs and thus inconvenient for night use by children or elderly people. With the alternatives we suggest this criticism could be met. We are, however, still left with only one w.c. and merely a partial solution for the children's homework and other domestic matters concerning only one or two members of the family.

Is not the present trend with housing committees on the contrary for a return to the parlour or at any rate, a more or less separate meals space?

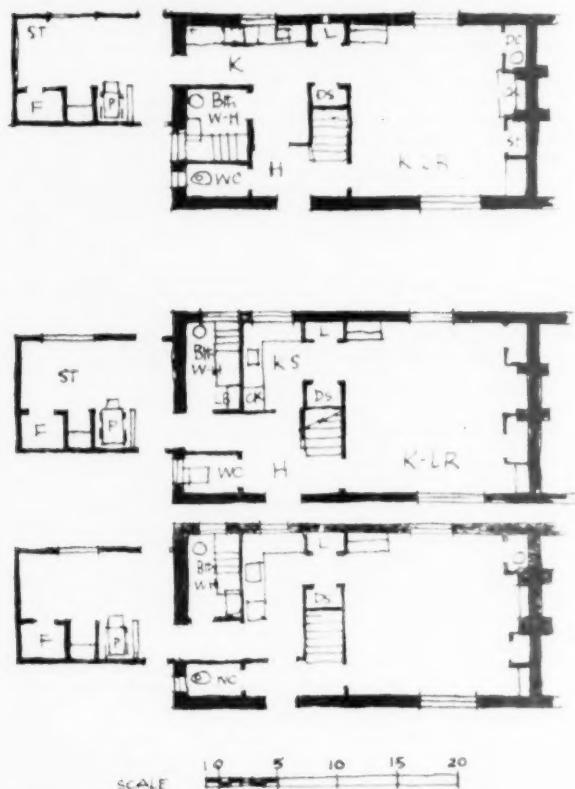
if this is so and we must adhere to the basic ideas of the Manual can we do more than concentrate on the elimination of waste space—helped, we must hope, by the abandonment of the floor space yard stick?

The meals space plan has the advantage of a single central flue stack and the area can be 40 or 50 sq. ft. below the 940 sq. ft. of the rural plans in the Manual; with the parlour type it has been found possible to limit the plan to 870 sq. ft. but it is not always possible to avoid a second stack and the living room may be rather less than the Manual space standards. On balance, therefore, the meals space plan has the advantage of thermal economy though it is not always preferred by the authorities. The cost savings are only moderate as compared with Mr. Imrie's suggestion—even with the omission of a fitted washhouse—but can we, in the face of present-day housing policy, reduce internal floor space by as much as he suggests?

This may, I fear, seem rather a timid follow-up to Mr. Imrie's constructive address and the least I can do is to append one of the plans described above so that your next contributor may have something to shoot at.

I am etc.,

PAUL V. MAUGER.



SCALE 10 5 10 15 20  
Variations on Mr. Imrie's plan referred to in Mr. Paul Mauger's letter above.

## Re: Vertical Feature Competition

To the Editor of A. & B.N.

Sir,—It is only by an off-chance that my attention was drawn to the "Small Selection of Unsuccessful Designs" in connection with the above, which you published in your Journal dated January 27.

As you happened to publish my design—"Without Comment"—and in view of the somewhat extraordinary generalisations and wholesale condemnation contained in your Editorial, signed by "Abner", I would like to ask you to allow me to make the following comments.

Item No. 16 of the conditions issued for the competition stated quite clearly that the design may either be "completely abstract"—or—"related to the theme of the Exhibition, which will demonstrate the British contribution to civilisation, past, present and future."

in science, technology and industrial design.

This second theme of symbolising the British contribution, past, present and future, called, in my opinion, very clearly for a trilogy of design and effort.

To the best of my knowledge, the majority of the designs submitted had the abstract conception as their keynote and as the whole range of my proposals does not become apparent from the one of my drawings that you published, I would like to indicate the full scope of the proposed trilogy by submitting the following supplementary information.

The drawing you published shows the daylight version of a 300 ft. high tower, displaying all the flags of the various members of the British Commonwealth, Colonies and Dependencies, surmounted by the Crown, as the symbolical head.

It has for long been the considered opinion of many historians that the

outstanding contribution of this country towards civilisation—past and present—has been its ability to organise a great variety of races and creeds into one common group of an evolutionary character, held together by ties of loyalty as opposed to force.

I believe that the proposed design is a simple and effective expression of this basic message and one which could have been easily comprehended by every section of the visiting public.

An indication of the potential—future—British contribution towards science and technology was provided for in my proposals (shown on another drawing) in the creation of an artificial Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights, which would have been achieved by ionising the upper atmosphere about 60 miles above London. This feature would have been visible not only from many parts of the country and possibly from the Continent, but would have provided the

most imaginative and powerful demonstration of a more peaceful alternative of atomic research and confirmed the lead of this country in this field of theoretical physics. Needless to say, that the practicability of this scheme has been duly confirmed by competent scientists and that there were practical experiments already being conducted in this field.

May I conclude by saying that I have, of course, no quarrel with the award of the Jury, which I naturally fully respect, nor do I wish to detract from the excellence of the prize winning design.

However, as the conditions of the competition clearly provided for two distinct alternatives of approach, I thought it would have been fair if the critical analysis and review of the designs published in your Journal would have paid a more informed tribute to this aspect.

I am etc.,  
WALTER H. MARMOREK.

## A LIVING TRADITION

### EXHIBITION OF DANISH ARCHITECTURE OF TODAY

THE catalogue is an essential part of this exhibition, for it gives, in excellent introductions, indications of the sorts of "climates" which have engendered the work shown. It seems especially necessary in the case of Danish architecture to know something of the background into which it is set. In its setting, knowing its public, it can be complete and beautiful; in photograph

and drawing it is harder to appreciate, for the architecture is indigenous, much more so than contemporary design has been here, for it has developed on strong traditions and the marriage of the European "New Vision" with native logic and constructional ability has resulted in some healthy offspring (to which the post-1914 Danish Neo-Classical movement stands as a sort of godparent) which, like people, are more interesting on acquaintance than ever in photograph.

Compared with the Swiss Exhibition of 1946 (held in the same hall) with its lush carpet and pretentious mural, it is a modest, simple affair, but in fact is successful in that display and content have unity. A physical unity given by the shaped floating canopy over part of the area relating to the arrangement of the screens below (which are nicely placed to keep some sense of the dimensions of the room) and a unity of atmosphere, for the calmness and serenity of mood created by the coloured canopy with its name panels of the different sections, in different colours, suspended from it and the fine light fittings which hang beneath it (the type designed by Vilhelm Lauritzen for Copenhagen Broadcasting House) is directly reflected in the mood of many Danish buildings that can be appreciated in the photographs, which, being of decent size, convey so much more than the usual small illustrations of magazine and book. Though many of the photographs do contain glimpses of the Danish landscape, it would have been of more value if the opening section, instead of paying the usual tribute to town planning, had consisted of a selection of photographs of the Danish scene in town and country. But, if we are not shown very much of the conditions out of which these buildings have grown, the inclusion of a large painting by Vilhelm Lundström does give us a quick key to their spirit, for in its simplicity and directness (though not in an unusual sombreness of colour) it has some affinity in its approach to the nature of Danish architecture.

The quality of the general work shown is high, the



H.E. The Danish Ambassador, Count Reventlow and Prince Georg of Denmark at the Danish Exhibition at the R.I.B.A.



Model of "Chain-Houses," Klampenborg, 1949. Architect: Arne Jacobsen. The siting of the houses, which are in course of erection, is due to the desire to obtain a view of the Sound from all living rooms.

flat schemes, the terrace housing, the schools and other buildings, are all competent and interesting with (especially in housing) simple ideas given a new twist and dullness relieved by some imaginative detail. But this



Part of the model of housing scheme at Bellahøj. Architects: Tage Nielsen and Mogens Irming

exhibition contains the cream of Danish building for the last fifteen years (a lot of it built since 1939) and asks to be judged against the highest standard, that of what one believes to be the really great buildings or conceptions of the new architecture. By this standard, some Danish buildings are to be considered amongst the lesser masterpieces of to-day's architecture. There are no outstanding contributions to the movement, no really great feats of imagination, few buildings where the overriding conception has been a purely architectural one, a question of imaginative form and function fused. Mostly form seems to have resulted from an almost too logical interpretation of the building programme and conditions. Perhaps one or two buildings do reach the highest level, though in a very personal way; one has to look at them with unpartisan spectacles to see that their greatness is one of candour and forthrightness unconnected with architectural fashions; inevitably their conception is always faultlessly realised.

To be specific, some of the buildings of Aarhus University and perhaps the State Broadcasting House in Copenhagen can be considered to have a value over and above their general qualities and functional content, they speak to the heart as well as the mind. Both buildings are well shown in the exhibition and it is interesting to compare their very different characters. Aarhus University, much more native and traditional yet uncompromisingly direct and free of stylism; the Broadcasting House, much more the sort of architecture we know as international, and, like all Lauritzen's work, direct and strong—compare this building, or his Town Hall at Gladsaxe, to the adjacent illustrations of the New Town Hall at Aarhus, with its unconvincing structure and self-conscious sweetnesses and charm. But,



keeping our highest standards before us, yet we have to admire much of the lesser architecture that has been produced in Denmark during recent years for its integrity and sense of the whole. It is complete and clear, strongly rooted in the life of the people, "which is a protection against exaggerations . . . but a restriction on fantasy."

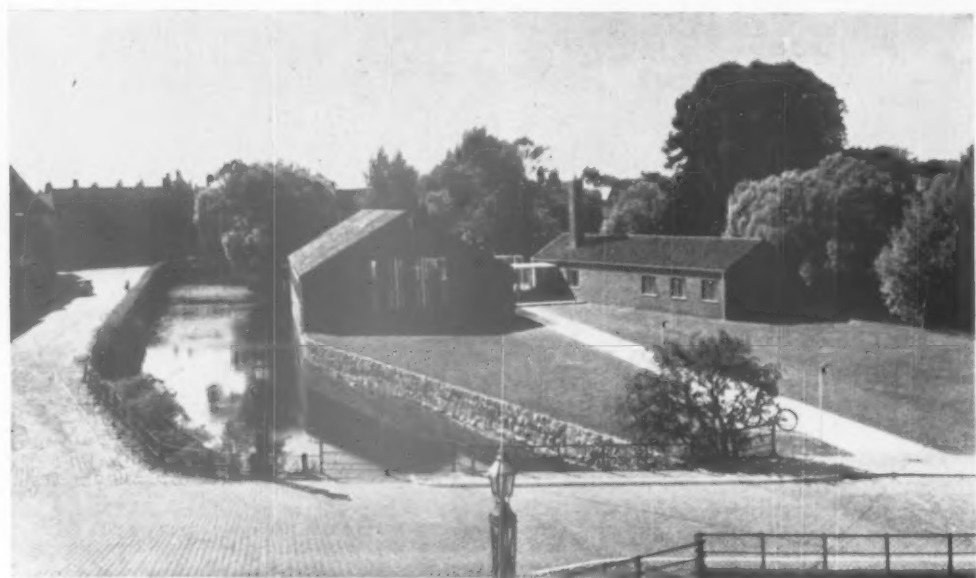
Thus in a sense Danish architecture is the most truly functional that there could be; it is truly functional when compared with what was considered to be so in this country before the war. Certainly functional in planning, direct, simple and unformal rather than informal, well related to construction which seems well considered and purely handled, certainly nearly functional in expression, almost a too logical outcome of the plan form and the spaces behind. (The repetition of a standard unit window all over a façade, as at Søllerød Town Hall, becomes infinitely tedious and cries out for some variation). The spatial feeling essentially determined by purpose, more a cell conception of architecture than that conception of spaces flowing together subtly interconnected—it is a relationship of compact units rather than an overall conception of the subdivision of one space into related volumes. In fact plans, with one or two exceptions, are rarely exciting things to look at in themselves. Finally in detail, less strictly functional and much more joy; this is where the Danish architect is skilled at turning on the charm—imaginative and skilful in his use of materials and colour, all detail aspects seem to come naturally, relieving severity with incidentals (perhaps of a too domestic character for many public buildings) from fittings to furniture and to the extensive planning which seems an essential architectural ingredient.

Architects' work in the field of detail is shown in a Decorative Arts section, which is disappointingly

small in content and gives little idea of the numberless objects which the Danish architect designs for industry—more, smaller illustrations would have been of greater interest here. Two illustrations have special interest—a delightful design for a stove which might have been made by Voysey, and a rather urgent looking jug which shows a faint flavour of the styling approach to design and which one hopes is not a precursor of things to come. Several pieces of furniture distributed about the exhibition confirm one's opinion that Danish work in this field is of the highest standard.

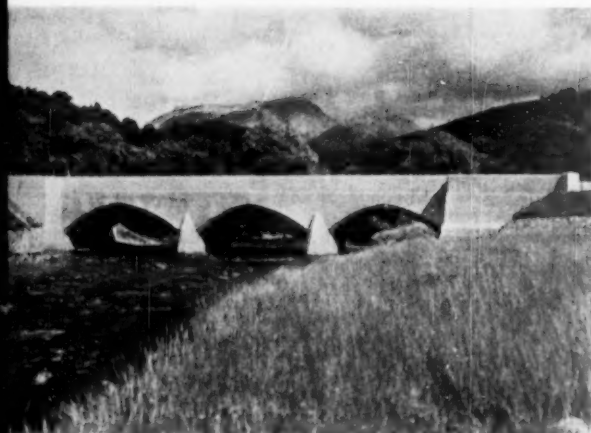
Looking at the exhibition, one is struck by the consistency and family likeness of the work, though perhaps one should except the designs for a brick church at Odense (which seem to belong to the earlier Klint school) and the work of Frits Schlegel, which, though personal, owes much of its inspiration to Auguste Perret. Excepting these, then, in the buildings we find a quality of innate simplicity, not a negative simplicity which comes from omissions, but a simplicity that comes from a sort of innocence of design, which conceals design and which seems related to what one knows of Chinese art—how noticeable this is in the small house shown by Erik Møller, in his and Flemming Lassen's design for Nyborg Library (surely one of the loveliest things in the exhibition) and in Finn Juhl's showrooms for Bing and Grøndahl—with its Chinese inspired tables—but also it is present in the whole spirit of the exhibition. This simplicity in lesser hands might become tedious and can be so, buildings being sane rather than imaginative, but it is a healthier approach than a wilful eclecticism or a narrow mannerist attitude. It has certainly produced in Denmark, during the last fifteen years, a host of excellent buildings and a living tradition with promise of further achievements.

TREVOR DANNATT.



NYBORG PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1938-39. ARCHITECTS: ERIK MØLLER AND FLEMMING LASSEN

The library is the result of an open competition arranged in 1935. The design of the building is strongly marked by its situation on a little peninsula between Nyborg Castle and the market-place of the town. Out of consideration for the view of the castle from the market-place, the two wings of which the building is composed, have been made quite low. Nyborg has about 10,000 inhabitants.



KIACHNISH BRIDGE

Crossing a river of the same name, between North Ballachulish and Fort William. Constructed of reinforced concrete, uncoloured and bush hammered. The construction including approaches cost only £5,900 in 1932.



INVERGARRY BRIDGE.

This bridge spans the River Garry. It is a ribbed open spandrel arch of reinforced concrete finished in buff coloured cement, the sides and soffits of the arch ribs being bush hammered.



OICH BRIDGE.

Crossing the River Oich in Inverness-shire it is constructed of uncoloured concrete, the surface being bush hammered. Cost in 1932 £23,500.



FORT AUGUSTUS BRIDGE.

Constructed in 1935 of Local Stone, partly Whin and Granite. Architects—F. C. Mears and C. D. Carus-Wilson. Engineers—Blyth and Blyth, for all four bridges.

## SCOTTISH BRIDGES OF SIR FRANK MEARS, P.R.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.

*I'm now arriv'd—thanks to the Gods!  
Through pathways rough and muddy  
A certain sign that makin' roads  
Is not this people's study.*

*Yet though I'm no' wi' scripture crammed,  
I'm sure the Bible says  
That heedless sinners shall be damn'd  
Unless they mend their ways.*

**E**VEN in the times of Robert Burns the "ways" or roads of Scotland were by no means in the state of repair we find them in to-day. Yet, even at that date, there

were many fine bridges in Scotland. Bridges of considerable architectural merit.

It is pleasing to be able to place on record the fact that not only have these architectural gems been held in high esteem but as a nation the Scots revere these fine old brigs.

In Scotland many rapid rivers often coming down in high flood have made her people bridge-conscious.

These monuments of masons' glory which have been handed down to us are worthy of more than a passing glance. No doubt they were built for the strictly utilitarian purpose of affording a safe passage over water, but the hands that fashioned them, turned the commonplace into a work of art. Not only as bridges do they stand but as memorials to the masons' art, for these men would have been the last to term themselves "architects" although the

(Continued on p. 265)



**INVERMORISTON BRIDGE,**  
Inverness-shire, situated in  
typical Highland scene with  
magnificent views hence in-  
corporation of wide standing  
bay. Faced in rough local  
stone. Leach stone for arches.

\*



**KING GEORGE VI BRIDGE,**  
ABERDEEN.

This bridge was opened by the  
King and Queen on March  
10, 1941. The bridge was  
built to ease the traffic on the  
historic old Bridge of Dee. The  
arches are constructed of re-  
inforced concrete faced with  
Kemnay granite with the  
vault surfaces bush ham-  
mered.

The cost of the bridge was in  
the region of £150,000. Archi-  
tect—Sir Frank C. Mears.  
T. F. Henderson, City En-  
gineer.



\*

**LOWER NORTH WATER  
BRIDGE.**

The size of this bridge, Sir  
Frank's latest design, may be  
judged by the comparative  
insignificance of Smeaton's  
Bridge built in 1775 which is  
to the right of drawing. Smea-  
ton's Bridge in itself is no  
small structure. The total  
length of the new bridge is  
1,500 feet comprised of 36  
bays. Architect—Sir Frank  
Mears, P.R.S.A. Engineers—  
F. A. MacDonald & Partners.



bridges they built are in perfect harmony with their surroundings. In this respect therefore, the masons were better architects than they knew.

Indeed the masons on some of the older bridges, some of them many arches, others with a single span leaping a rocky gorge combined the functions of architect, engineer and craftsman. As the country became more industrialised bridge building for still wider spans or heavier loads could no longer, with safety, be carried on by the rule of thumb methods employed by the masons in their early stone arched bridges, but became a prerogative of the civil engineer and so entered the realm of intricate calculations of mere thrust and counterpoise. The results in many cases were monuments to the slide rule. They represented figures clothed in concrete. Very rarely did they represent a way of building native to its surroundings.

Even the lay public saw that somehow these steel or concrete frames were not works of art in relation to the countryside which they were meant to serve.

It is not surprising therefore that we find emerging from this turmoil a bridge architect. An architect whose main aim was not only to help in providing a safe passage over water but to see that the bridge was complementary to the landscape of which it formed part and not, as had appeared the rule, antagonistic thereto.

The architect's name was Frank C. Mears, a former Pugin Student, he was not Sir Frank in those days. His main asset was his power of observation of rural design and his love for that country into which the design had to fit. It is safe to say that there are few men who know so intimately the rural areas of Scotland and who through their whole lives have pleaded the case of the people of those areas.

The years around 1932 no doubt saw more bridges built or under construction than any other years in Scottish history. It was fitting therefore that Mears along with his partner Carus-Wilson should be asked to harmonize the new bridges of the Great Glen to the rugged mountains which frowned down upon them from every side.

Why do the bridges designed by these two architects fit into their surroundings? When asked this question Sir Frank stated that he wished to emphasise that he would not have any of the bridges with which he was associated as architect known as "his" bridges. "Never look upon such bridges as the work of one man," he said. "Bridge design is a matter of the closest collaboration between engineer, architect and builder. The architect must not just be content to clothe the design given him by the engineer or as is usually thought to add the fancy touches. It is a combined operation in which both make their contribution from the very beginning.

In former days the alignment of a bridge was usually set

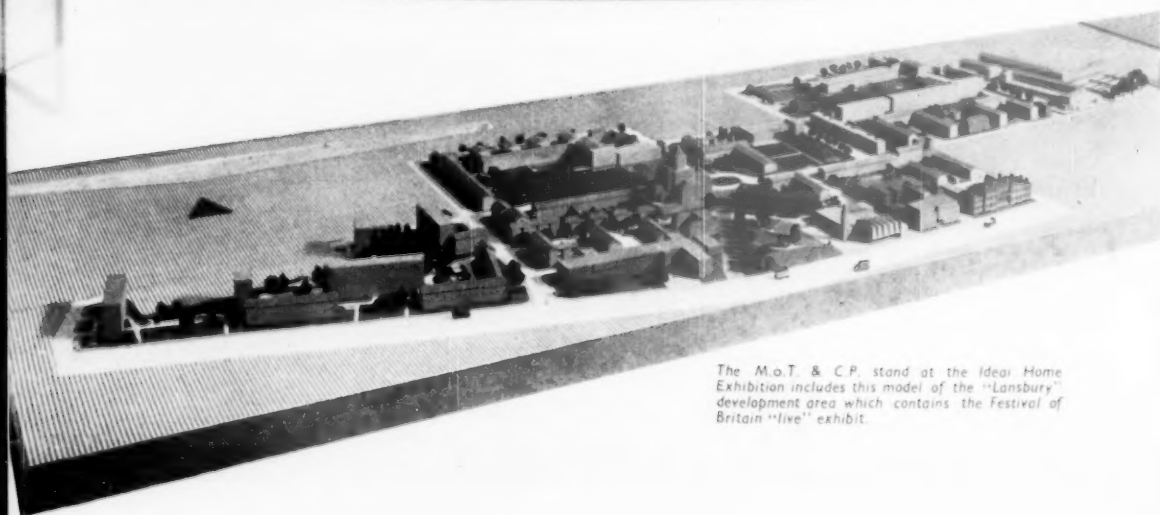
out at right angles to the stream for reasons of economy and minimum length of space and therefore the road approaches were often awkwardly arranged. In our own days of high speed traffic, visibility and streamlining claim priority and the majority of bridges are skew to the river and it is here an architect can show his skill. A bridge should flow and not just sideslip. The locality of which a bridge forms a part is in many cases one of beauty; clear water may reflect the lines of arches, the banks may be grassy or tree lined or rocky, ripples caused by the cut water or abutments many promote an ever-changing play of light and shadow on the soffit of the arches. All of these present a challenge to the skill of the designer.

Unfortunately as Sir Frank pointed out, only a few ever see the beauty of a modern bridge. You do not see it from the road itself as in the case with many old examples where the approaches are such that a right angle turn is inevitable when the abutments are reached. It was a pity he felt that we could not provide viewpoints a little way up or down the stream as the case might warrant so that the traveller might be tempted to pause a while. In a country where finance is endeavouring to control art this is too much to hope.

Again when a new bridge has to be erected to by-pass an old, the new bridge he felt should be placed, if possible, so that one could better appreciate the work of art which had served man's needs for many a century. The distance the two are apart is a matter for careful thought, not as at Wades Bridge at Tummel or Guardbridge, near St. Andrews where the closeness of the new, ruins the beauty of the old bridge. Perhaps the best example of the siting of new and old is at Devils Bridge, Kirkby Lonsdale, Westmorland.

From many of the Scottish bridges there are views which it will be difficult to rival. Three examples come to mind. The Water of Feuch from the Bridge of Feuch near Aberdeen, the Falls of Dochart from Killin Bridge in Perthshire and the upstream and downstream views from Invermoriston Bridge in Inverness-shire. This latter was designed by Sir Frank with large projecting bays so that both views could be appreciated without interference from traffic. He pointed out also that all the details of a rural bridge such as cutwaters, off sets, string courses, masonry courses etc. should be based on the scale of domestic building if the structure is to harmonize with its surroundings and thus applied to concrete no less than to stone-faced bridges.

This is typical of the thought which goes into any bridge designed by Sir Frank. Every detail is carefully weighed in the balance. Is it necessary? Does it add to the beauty of the bridge? If not discard it. His motto might well be "beauty is not made by the addition of ornament but by the expenditure of thought rather than money."



The M.O.T. & C.P. stand at the Ideal Home Exhibition includes this model of the "Lansbury" development area which contains the Festival of Britain "live" exhibit.

# BAPTISTRY AND VESTRY

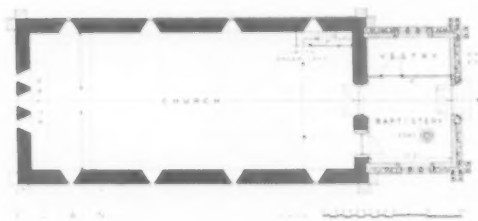
CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS  
MIDDLETON-ON-SEA

Architect:  
Dorian H. S. Prince, A.R.I.B.A.

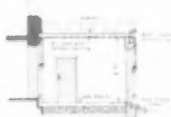
*External walls are of whole and knapped flints in lime mortar with flint chippings pushed into the joints to match existing work. Dressings are in natural Bath stone; the steps are in York stone.*



**T**HE present Middleton church, a rectangular building, 50 ft. 9 in. x 24 ft. 0 in. was built in 1849 when the place was little more than a hamlet. To mark the centenary the Parochial Church Council decided to erect an extension to provide accommodation for the font and vestry; to form an entrance lobby; and to allow additional seating space. The entrance doorway has been left in its original form but has new oak doors. An additional doorway has been made in the old west wall to enable overflow congregation in the Baptistry to hear the service. The contract price was £1,225 0s. 0d. at 6s. 1d. per ft. cube. The General Contractor was Messrs. H. W. Seymour & Son, Ltd., Bognor Regis. The Sub-Contractor for the stonework was Messrs. J. Bysouth, Ltd., South Tottenham.



*The extension was designed to eliminate completely the use of softwood. The floor is of 6 in. concrete, external walls 9 in. brickwork with 6 in. facing of flints. The roof is a 5 in. reinforced concrete slab, asphalted and laid on permanent shuttering of "Tensite." Walls are of lime plaster tinted with "Cementone," finished with a wood float and left undecorated. Floor of oak blocks with oak skirting and all joinery in oak with wax polished finish.*



# FLATS at OAKLEY AVENUE, ACTON, W.5

Architects: Culpin and Son, F.R.I.B.A.

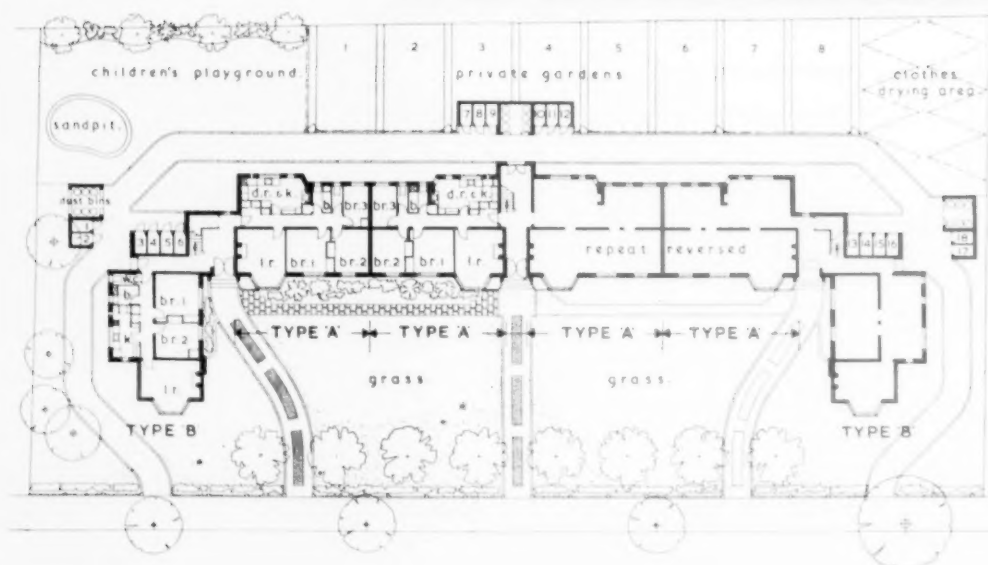
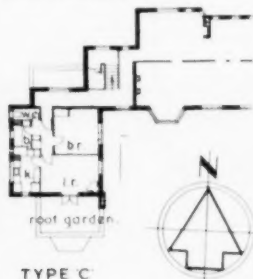
These flats are more traditional in character than the architects would have wished owing to the client's requirement that the block should not be unneighbourly to existing villas on either side.

The accommodation consists of twelve 3-bedroom flats, four 2-bedroom flats, and two 1-bedroom flats. The 3-bedroom type face south, with all principal rooms on the front. The kitchens on the north have been ensured of some sun from east or west by a break in the plan.

The 2-bedroom types, in the wings have east-west aspect, with 1-bedroom flats above. The latter are set back to observe neighbouring ancient lights thus providing small roof gardens to each.

The large flats have space heating and hot water provided from boilers in the dining-kitchens. The smaller flats have closeable fires with back boilers.

A glass fibre quilt has been used for thermal and sound insulation in the floors and roof. Right, the main central entrance.



The building was completed within the contract period. Work on the site began in September 1948 and the flats were completed and occupied by July 1949. The progress photographs below, taken on December 15, 1948, show, left, a general view and, right, a detail of the floor construction. Living room and bedrooms have boarded floors nailed to battens on acoustic clips. Elsewhere solid floors are in coloured granolithic. The one pipe plumbing system is contained in ducts.



#### GENERAL CONTRACTORS: W. J. Marston & Son Ltd.

#### SUB CONTRACTORS

##### *Ballstrading—*

Geo. Wright (London) Ltd.

##### *Bricks—*

Proctor & Lavender Ltd. (facing)  
Lith & Co. Ltd. (Rusic Fletton)

##### *Coats-of-Arms—*

E. J. & A. T. Bradford Ltd.

##### *Drying Cabinets—*

J. Glover & Sons Ltd.

##### *Electrical Installation—*

Electric Power Installation Co.

##### *Electricity Service—* Electricity Board.

##### *Fibreglass—*

Fibreglass Ltd.

##### *Fireplaces & Fires—*

B. Finch & Co. Ltd.

##### *Floors, Hollow Tile—*

Helical Bar & Engineering Co. Ltd.

##### *Gas Service—*

North Thames Gas Board.

##### *Ironmongers, Clothes Posts—*

Parker, Winder & Achurch Ltd.

##### *Kitchen Fittings—*

Peerless Built-in-Furniture Ltd.

##### *Lights & Ventilators for Larder—*

Greenwood's & Airvac Ventilating Co. Ltd.

##### *Ladders, Lofi—*

Drew Clark & Co. Ltd.

##### *Planting—*

Woods & Co. Ltd. (Landscape Gardeners)

##### *Rainwater Heads—*

Fraser & Ellis Ltd.

##### *Roofing, Felt—*

Neuchatel Asphaltic Co. Ltd.

##### *Sanitary Fittings—*

John Bolding & Sons Ltd.

##### *Staircases—*

Helical Bar & Engineering Co. Ltd.

##### *Water Service—*

Metropolitan Water Board.

##### *Windows, Casement—*

Midland Woodworking Co. Ltd.

A general view of the entrance front. The facing bricks are rustic multi-coloured with orange shades predominant. Windows are wooden casements of heavier than standard section. The carved coat of arms over the central entrance was carried out from a cartoon prepared by the architects.





# Building under difficulties

## HOUSE AT SOLIHULL, WARWICKSHIRE

THIS small site at Solihull, Warwickshire, was acquired in 1938. It was part of the garden of an adjacent house and the main advantages were—its south aspect, the existing lawn and matured trees together with the existing footpath crossing which was part of the double drive of the existing house.

An existing viney on the site was demolished but the vines were retained.

Owing to the narrow width of the site it was essential to project the garage block to obtain the accommodation required, i.e., on the ground floor are the lounge-dining room with a south aspect and study, cloakroom and kitchen on the north. On the first floor—four bedrooms, linen cupboard, bathroom, w.c., etc.

Plan 1 was submitted and approved by the local council in 1939. Building was delayed by the outbreak of war in September 1939, but an attempt was made later to build a portion of the project as a bungalow within the then limit of £500. This proposal was refused by the council and although Town Planning sanction was eventually obtained this was not received before the building limit was down to £100. The owner then spent five years in the Royal Engineers.

In 1946 a request for a building licence was made but the applicant was told that the plans exceeded 1,000 sq. ft.

Then followed much juggling to reduce the area to comply with restrictions without upsetting future completion. If a bungalow (ground floor only) had been built a further complete building operation and alteration to services would have been necessary.

Eventually the original plan was adhered to but by reducing the garage and shortening the kitchen on the ground floor and omitting bedrooms 1, 2 and 3 on the first floor the area was reduced to 1,000 sq. ft. and this plan was sanctioned in 1947.

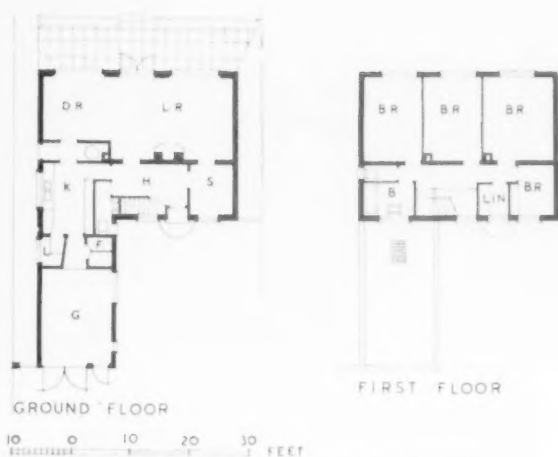
Although it was obvious that the work would have to be carried out in three stages, a start was made on stage 1 in 1947. The usual interminable material delays were experienced, for instance, the building was up to timber joists before a timber licence was received.

The client eventually moved into "half house" on the day the maximum house areas were increased to 1,500 sq. ft.

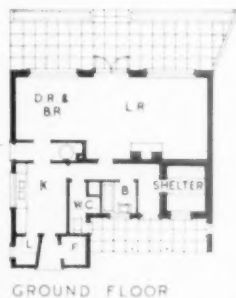
Stage 2—garage with flat roof and extension to kitchen—was added in 1948, under £100 licence free permission.

Stage 3—Lifting of south roof, and bedrooms 1, 2, and 3 remain to be done.

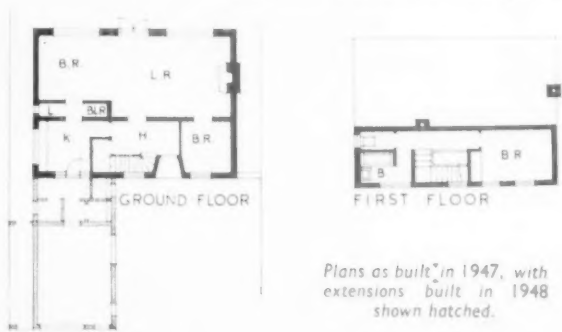
To house the owner and his wife and two children various internal moves were necessary. Bedroom 3 on the first floor



Plans as originally submitted in 1939 and approved.



Wartime amendment, 1940 not proceeded with owing to £500 limit.



Plans as built in 1947, with extensions built in 1948 shown hatched.

and the study on the ground floor are used as children's bedrooms and the parents sleep in the dining room which is at present divided from the lounge by built-in sideboard and curtains. The large lounge—20 ft. x 14 ft.—is used as a combined living room. This arrangement has proved quite workable.

Two amendments were made to the structure during stage 1. First to avoid reintroduction of scaffolding, the gable ends were taken up to their final line. These will be clearly seen from the photographs taken on the garden site.

Secondly the purlins over the bedrooms were supported on two rolled steel channels to free the floor area which is used temporarily as a store. These again can be seen in the photograph and will eventually be embodied in the wall and roof structure.

The owner's drive has been left un-





front elevation

surfaced until all the building work is finished. The lantern light projecting through the flat garage roof and giving light to the internal lobby is a temporary measure pending delivery of a glasscrete light or cast glass dome.

#### CONSTRUCTION

**Wall.** 11 in. Cavity Walls External facings of 2½ in. L.B.C. Rustic Flettons.

**Roof.** Sand Faced Tiles on felt.

**Ground Floor.** Oak blocks on concrete to all ground floor rooms except kitchen and cloakroom which are all buff quarry tiles.

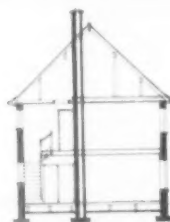
**First Floor.** 1 in. Deal Boards.

**Internal Finishes.** All walls plastered and distempered cream. Flush doors and all trim painted cream. Window boards to lounge dining room cream Waverite.

**Heating.** Open fireplace in lounge only with gas point. Provision has been made for central heating but this has not yet been installed.

**Water Heating.** Creda new type dual purpose electric water heater fitted under sink.

**Garage Doors.** Door unit constructed of three standard four-panel doors braced with metal frame and operated by "Weltit" overhead door gear.

Section as  
originally planned.

as built.



garden elevation

Architect:

RALPH LAMPRELL

## POINTS FROM PAPERS

## THE ARCHITECT'S BRIEF

Extracts from a talk given by SIR THOMAS BENNETT, C.B.E., F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A., at the Architectural Association on February 22

I SUPPOSE that as architects—possibly the other professions may be in the same condition—we are attempting to work at a period of transition of thought, both technically and artistically, which has changed more rapidly and appears still to be subject to more rapid change than any other period within reasonable living memory. I also suppose that people have rarely lived in a period in which there was so much contrariness in the personal views of such a large section of the population. Nobody is prepared to follow without question the instructions given by anybody else. He may ultimately be convinced and follow the advice given to him, but his first instinct is to question it.

Living as we do in a period of this kind of change, of this kind of progress (we hope), of this kind of political atmosphere, briefing at once becomes not the simple, elementary sort of thing it at first appeared but something of the greatest possible complication, something demanding the highest kind of thought which we can put into it. It has been further complicated in the last few years by the extent to which politics have crept in, not only into the buildings which we erect but the precise form of buildings, and behind that the national economy, which ought to guide politics but does not always do so.

I feel that we are compelled to begin with the political reactions of the briefs which we shall find around us for our various tasks of building.

We then discover, if this kind of analysis is right, that the first thing which controls the brief is world economic conditions. We are living in a world in which the competition of the Eastern nations, with an extremely low standard of living, is bound to occur or has already occurred. We are living in a Europe in which important and industrious nations like Germany are for the time being forced into a standard of living in which any kind of subsistence is welcome. In those conditions, we in this country, having food for, at the most, only half of our population, are bound to sell our goods, and it therefore seems impossible for us to live in buildings of a better standard or to enjoy a standard of living which is materially higher than that of the Asiatics, or materially higher than that of the Germans, unless we can match that difference in standard with an altogether unthought-of improvement in the standard of what we put into our work, whether that be architecture, manufacture, retail trading or any of our other activities.

However well we may manage temporarily to maintain our standard of

living, there must come a time, and a not very distant time, when any improvement of the world standard of living must be the direct result of a higher standard of thought and greater ability to cope with the conditions in which the world exists. That in turn must be reflected in the sort of buildings that we have to design. Naturally one's thoughts turn in the first place to houses. The house is the simplest essential, from an architectural point of view, of human life.

That house must attempt to meet two diametrically opposed lines of thought. It must first of all try to meet something which the nation can afford to build, and it must secondly meet the ideal of the standard of living which the country has built up for itself. In order that that may be interpreted accurately and properly, it must be married to the technical development of the age in which it is built.

Simple, therefore, though it seems to design a house, at the very outset we are faced with this fact, that before we design a house we must decide on its size and on the materials of construction, and when we start to decide on its size we are unfortunately—I think that it is a tragic misfortune—faced with something which is not a matter of economics or of technology or of architectural skill, but of competition for the votes of the people who are going to live in the houses. It is quite obvious that, valuable though the vote may be when it is merely a matter of counting heads, it is not necessarily going to count heads all of which are capable of grasping all the reactions which go towards building the kind of habitation which people thinking *in vacuo* feel that they would like to live in. It is therefore as architects plus politicians that we begin to examine the most elementary building, the simple house for the ordinary man.

Now, it has pleased our political masters, through their books of instruction, to tell us, perhaps, too much. They say that the living room must have so many square feet, the double bedroom so many more, the single bedroom so many less, and the whole apartment a total which has to include the wastage. That may or may not be a good basis upon which to work, but I think that we must accept at the outset that some basis in feet and inches is necessary for the guidance of the public at large, when the public as well as the technical mind has to translate that into an actual fact. I think that the size of the house ought to be the result of technical examination by architects of the standards of housing of the world, of careful comparison and analysis by those who are controlling the country's economics of

what the country can afford, and it must then be related to the means which other countries have taken to endeavour to achieve exactly the same object that we are attempting to achieve here—that is, the housing of the great mass of the people on the best possible standard, considering all the very complicated and varied economic conditions in which we live.

As you all know, if we go to Switzerland we find great economy in road construction, with extensive use of footpaths. It is not sufficient to look at that merely with a technical mind. You have to realise that in Switzerland the people have become accustomed during many centuries to extensive walking. The tradesmen, the cool heavers, the housewives and everybody else expect to walk a considerable distance, the national habit makes no bones about it and creates no difficulties; it just walks. If you present the same conditions to the British house owner, the British coal deliverer or furniture remover, your system will fail to work.

You all know the high standard of the Swedish house. When you go into the Swedish house you find that there is one bedroom, one living room, a very fine kitchen, an excellent bathroom and a certain amount of basement accommodation. When you inquire more closely as to the inhabitants, you will find that it is not at all uncommon that in such a house, with one bedroom, the Swede accepts the fact that a man and wife and four children shall live, with trundle beds hidden under curtains and so on. That is accepted as a suitable dwelling for four or five people, or even more; the national conscience accepts it as one of the means by which the economic difficulties of the country shall be met.

We know that if we go to America we shall find dwellings the standard of construction of which, compared with our own, falls so far short of anything that we should call a house that, when we have attempted in some cases to import them here, a very brief examination has shown that they are quite unacceptable to the English climate, the English standard of living or anything else connected with England. America, in spite of its wealth to-day and its amazing position in the world's economic life, is still constructing very large numbers of houses of a standard of construction which we in England would not accept for a moment, and of a smaller floor area than we would accept.

In so far as we regard ourselves merely as technicians, we might say that we will sit back and wait for someone else—the politician, the

administrator, the economist—to tell us exactly what to design when we want to design a house. We may, however, take another view of our responsibilities, as citizens as well as architects, and we may say that if we have technical and artistic and economic minds we may well be in a very much better position to advise the politicians on the sort of houses which should be built, their size and their method of construction, and to express views as to the way in which politicians should encourage people to live, encouraging them to walk further than they are prepared to walk to-day, and so on, and bringing home to them the fact that, if they want to survive at all, they must erect dwellings in large numbers but cannot afford to erect dwellings beyond a certain cost, a certain size and a certain type of construction, and say that these are the ways by which, with skill, it may be possible to arrive at that result.

In many cases, however, skill and ability are not sufficient, and we must bring to our assistance the man who can persuade the public that this is driven upon us, if you like, acceptable if you like, and even desirable, if you like, but something which will help us to hold our own with the standard of living which we want to have in the world as it exists to-day.

When I say acceptable, or even desirable, I would ask you to remember that many housing schemes are much more delightful with less area of roadway, properly planned. Many approaches are much more pleasant with footpaths than with a road. The disabilities, if you analyse them, arise for the most part only on the day when furniture is delivered. For the average housewife only a few hundredweight of coal will be delivered at a time. The number of occasions on which a vehicle must come up to the front door is not nearly so numerous as the number of times when it is quite unnecessary.

The architect, in constructing the brief, to some extent must be outside architecture; he must be able to view questions of cost, questions of the habits of people and whether they can be changed, and all sort of things which a few years ago were accepted by all and sundry as unalterable. The first basis of briefing, therefore, is this very wide one of national economics, this very wide one of national habit, this very important one of the extent to which national habit can be guided into other directions which are less expensive so far as they affect the dwellings of the people, so that those dwellings may be good and cheap and spacious and light, as well as having all the other necessary qualities.

We then come, it seems to me, to the next group of questions, which are semi-architectural and semi-technical in other ways, and which arise from the inroads of science into the buildings which we have to produce. We have made in this country since the

war an attempt to design the semi-permanent building. Those of us who lived after the 1914-18 war realise that, after that war, we went through almost exactly the same sort of experience. We built timber houses, we built wet concrete blocks, we built steel houses, and in fact we built all kinds of houses in the hope that they would cost less than the permanent houses, so called, and would be as durable, or even that they might be better and cheaper.

It is remarkable that in the period between 1918 and 1940 almost every one of those systems of construction disappeared, except the concrete block construction in the non-brick areas of this country. We started all over again in 1945, when we set up a panel of scientists and started to examine the alternative materials. As you all know, it was gradually borne in upon us that the uses of asbestos, of steel, of timber to the limited extent to which we could try it, and of concrete slabs resulted, to our disappointment, first of all in a house which virtually cost the same amount of money as a brick house, and secondly, on examination it was very difficult to find that it had any great advantage over what are the traditional buildings materials in this country.

We realised, on a further analysis of the situation, that the gap, from a manufacturing point of view, between the native brick earth and the brick was extremely short, and extremely simple and cheap to bridge.

We found that most of the alternative materials took almost as long to construct with, certainly if the factory hours were counted as well as the site labour, and probably they took just as long, while they had certain obvious and material defects in maintenance.

We were therefore driven back to the fact that in England at least to a very large extent brick is still our best building material. We realise that there is probably no other country in Europe, or perhaps in the world, in which the distribution of brick earth, the knowledge of brick manufacture and the existence of bricklayers is similar to the position which exists here; and so our big researches into alternative housing materials after the war did not produce the very fine results in economy of cost and speed of erection which at one time their supporters hoped would arise from careful study.

I think that none of us would say that that study was wasted. None of us would say that it is not possible still to carry it further, and that it might not even produce some material which would have all the qualities of the traditional brick house and none of its defects, and which would enable us to build many more houses at very much lower cost; but that has not proved to be so up to now. It is not sufficient to leave that to the scientist. The scientist, in his way, is an excellent man. He is a little tied up with material examina-

tion and a little tied up with theory; he does not put great emphasis on appearance, and is not very much concerned with aesthetic control, so that to some extent his approach is limited. If, however, you marry him to the architect you have a very good team, and it may well be that that team can between them produce something which is worth while, and then the architect will introduce it into his brief.

Then we come to the bigger buildings—schools, offices, blocks of flats, town halls, concert halls and all that big mass of building in which, as we all know, very much bigger questions are involved. Are we briefed merely to design a block of flats or to design a large hotel, or is it for us as architects to say whether that hotel shall have oil heating or coal heating or electro-thermal heating or gas-fired boilers? Are we to say whether a restaurant should be ventilated or not ventilated, and, if ventilated, whether it should have plenum and extract or extract alone? Should we get to the position in which we may receive a brief from our client which tells us precisely what to do under all these headings, or should we find ourselves in the position of people who are so well informed on all the aspects of that particular part of our work that we tell our client who he ought to have?

I am one of those who hold strongly that the importance of the architect rises in proportion to his contribution not only architecturally but in all other respects to building. If his knowledge is such that he can say to the hotel owner "In this class of hotel you must have plenum and extract ventilation, and the question of what it costs is quite immaterial; for such a restaurant, these are essential conditions," he in effect dictates the brief to the restaurant owner, and, in so far as your judgment is right on that side of the equipment of his building, so he will gradually get to the point that he does not brief you, in the sense of telling you what to do, but comes to you and asks you. The extent to which the answer is acceptable is to a large degree a measure of the standard of the architect who answers the question, and of the profession of which he is regarded merely as a symbol.

The field of knowledge which the architect in that respect ought to cover to-day is fairly big. It is fairly clear that no single man can design the heating and the electrical system and the ventilation system and all the other things connected with it but we as a profession pride ourselves on the fact that we are the co-ordinators of the building, and it is, I think, quite possible enough to know enough about the principles upon which the equipment of a building is based to be able to offer advice on the introduction of this or that service into the building, and to know the sort of source to go to find out its cost and feasibility.

This general knowledge of the scientific aspects of building, if you

like to call it that, of the technical details which are part and parcel of building to-day, ought first of all to be the basis of architectural teaching, as I see it, and ought secondly to be part of the experience which the architect gathers as he goes about his daily work, and which makes him ultimately able to advise his client instead of his client advising him. A stage may well be reached where, in certain cases, the client comes to the architect and says "I am proposing to develop this piece of land. I want to put a building on it: what sort of building do you suggest that I should build?" It may be houses or flats, offices, a theatre or any other class of building.

There are people who produce a scientific plan for the manufacture of some commodity, or who have really expert knowledge of the sort of thing they want to do in building. . . . When the architect meets people of that kind, it is very unlikely that he can contribute a great deal to the layout; but if the architect is determined to absorb not merely the purpose of the building but the precise nature of the actions which take place in it, he can then begin to contribute something in the nature of an analysis of action, of the human requirements of the occupants, which in very many cases is a fresh line of thought, a fresh construction of the purposes for which the building is required, and arising out of that may come a fresh plan, a fresh elevation and a fresh everything else—in other words, an advance in thought on that particular subject.

I believe that the architectural brain, which, given a right choice of profession, is above all things a creative brain, a brain of constructive thought, does not need to be told so many simple facts and then instructed to put them in a building, but can go through a hospital, for example, and see the way in which a patient is moved from bed to anaesthetic, from anaesthetic to operating table and from operating table back to bed, and can realise the fundamentals of these actions and see whether they are in fact the best, the most economic, and the most restful to the patient, and whether they fulfil all the conditions which such actions ought to fulfil, or whether something different, some perhaps entirely unthought-of method, is not very much better. Arising from that unthought-of method, he must devise a plan which will permit it to be carried out in a satisfactory manner.

There are many ways in which the space allotted to the kitchen may be used. I have found that there is no way of deciding how this apparently simple room should be used and shaped and divided, lighted and ventilated, except by absorbing in a very complete and thorough manner the basis of action of the human beings that are going to occupy the house.

Now, constructing briefs on that kind of basis can be carried out only by people with that kind of brain. The flat developer has usually a very simple and straightforward mind, mainly

concerned with how much profit he will get at the end of the story. He is very unlikely to be an analyser of human beings. Quite surprisingly, however, he sometimes gives utterance, if you listen to him, to the most astonishingly penetrating truths arrived at merely on the basis of whether something lets or not.

Then you have the client to whose work the architect must devote more elaborate process of thought. Many years before I actually designed a theatre I made up my mind that I should like to do so, and I wrote to all sorts of theatre managers and got in touch with box office people, and sat on stages and watched the electricians at work on their switchboard and the dimmers going up and down, and I saw the stage carpenter at work. I went into the ladies' cloakrooms and talked to the woman in charge, and I discovered that very few people had ever been there before to find out exactly how it worked and why it worked. Some of the most elementary things came to light. In the London of those days there was hardly a theatre in which there was a mirror in the women's cloakroom, unless the attendant had bought it herself. That seems incredible, in view of the fact that three women out of four go there only to look in the mirror. The attendant assured me that in those days of unemployment it was as much as her job was worth to ask the management to put in a mirror. The thing to do, therefore, was to design a cloakroom in which mirrors, with a handbag shelf, ran round most of the wall space available.

In the same way, in the case of a factory the process needs studying from the time the material arrives at the front door to the time of its departure at the back. The architect must see which processes should be on a level and which need lifts, and go into the whole matter thoroughly. Out of that he can evolve his own brief of what he is to construct.

The further I studied this briefing question, therefore, the more it seemed to me that the contribution of the architect must be magnified. Indeed, there are few limits to the extent to which the architect's contribution can go, but he must have many other aspects of knowledge at the back of his mind in forming his judgment. The great underlying feature of to-day's buildings is their extraordinary value in the economic life of the country. We are not to-day concerned with housing the rich man in his country house, or the magnate in his town mansion. We are endeavouring to provide not the schools of Eton and Harrow but the ordinary elementary and secondary schools which go to meet the needs of the whole population. We are endeavouring to provide buildings for the use of the maximum number of people and not the minimum. We are no longer able, therefore, to design buildings irrespective of economics, irrespective of cost. We are no longer able to prepare designs in which the

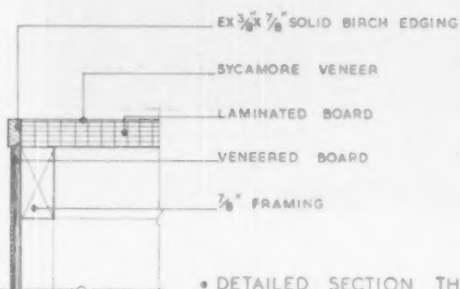
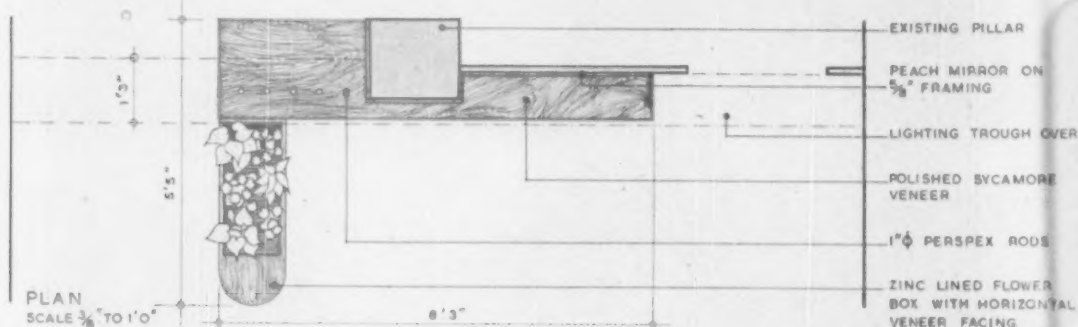
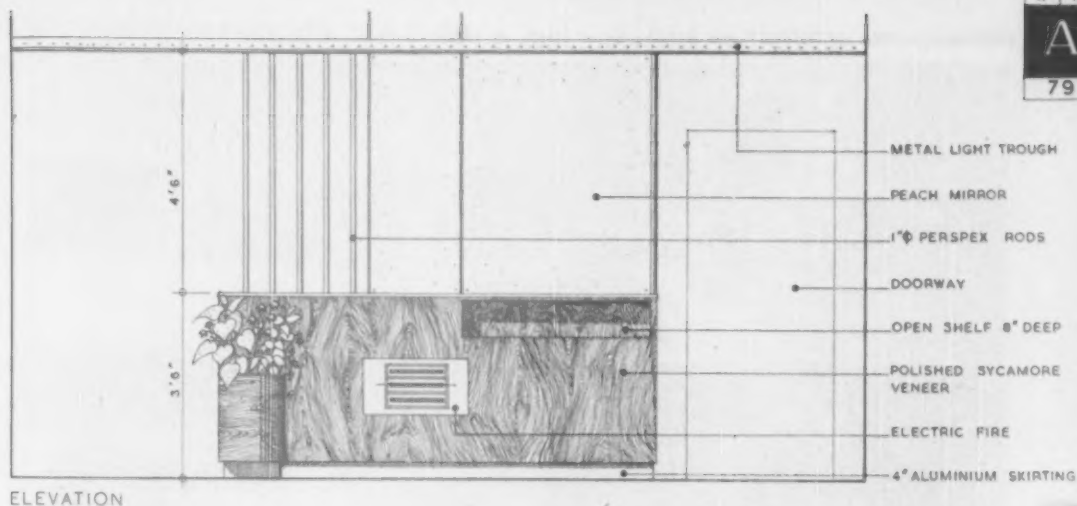
cost looks after itself. I have found that in most classes of building the sketch plan and the estimate must go hand in hand, in order to test the skilfulness with which the plan has been produced. I have many times measured the area of waste, the area of approaches and corridors, compared with the areas of useful space, and have tried to discover whether a plan is in fact an economic plan or not.

I think that finally we have to consider to what extent the client, in briefing, is entitled to dictate the architectural form of the building. In most cases it is quite clear that you cannot pick up an architect by the scruff of the neck and tell him to design a Georgian house; unless you have taken the trouble to see whether he knows anything about Georgian architecture, and still more to see whether he can design in that particular medium, the chance of your having a successful Georgian house is small. Similarly, if you attempt to tell him what shape the windows shall be or where the doors shall be, you are doomed to disaster. To a large extent, therefore, the architect-designer must be the person who decides on the form in which he shall create his building, because, as we all know, the shape and appearance begin to grow from the first time that you put a few sketch plan lines on paper. To have that mauled about afterwards by a third party is quite intolerable, and generally disastrous.

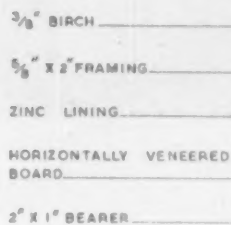
There may be conditions, however, in which the building owner has to say "Here is a part of the town which is entirely Georgian, and almost entirely two-storey, so that your elevation, whatever it is, must be in harmony with the two-storey Georgian houses." That is not saying that it shall be meticulously Georgian or anything else in detail. In general, however, I think that the interference of a third party is to be deprecated, and is rarely successful; the creator of the building must make the decision. If the building is something which the client does not like, he may realise it from the drawings and stop it. If the architect produces a bad building, entirely at variance with the client's ideas, he will never get another job.

I think that the moral of any study of briefing is a very important one. The days when briefing simply meant the instruction to design a hospital, a museum, or whatever it might be, the cost of the materials being immaterial, the site being unlimited and the frontage magnificent have gone.

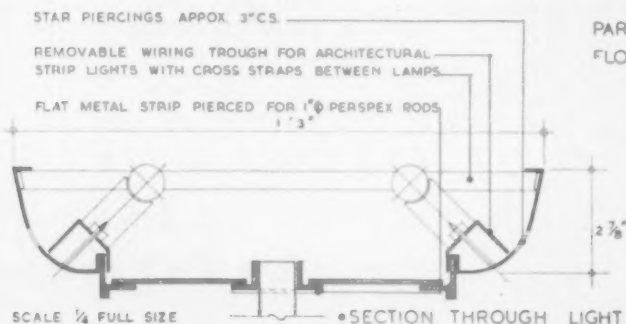
We have to design in to-day's economic conditions. We have to design in an effort to produce more spacious plans with a knowledge of the various materials which are at our disposal, and with a very clear idea of the engineering services which can come into the building. Not only do we have to design a building which will contain them properly, and with full understanding, but we have to put ourselves in a position to give advice on every one of these points.



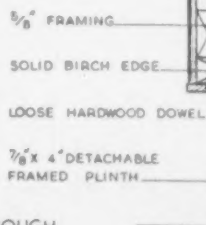
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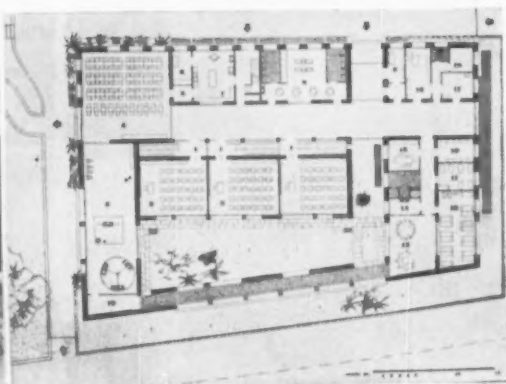
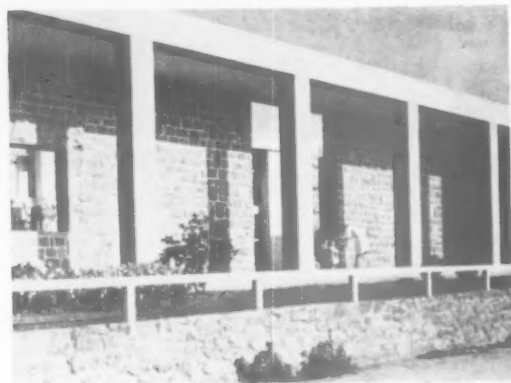
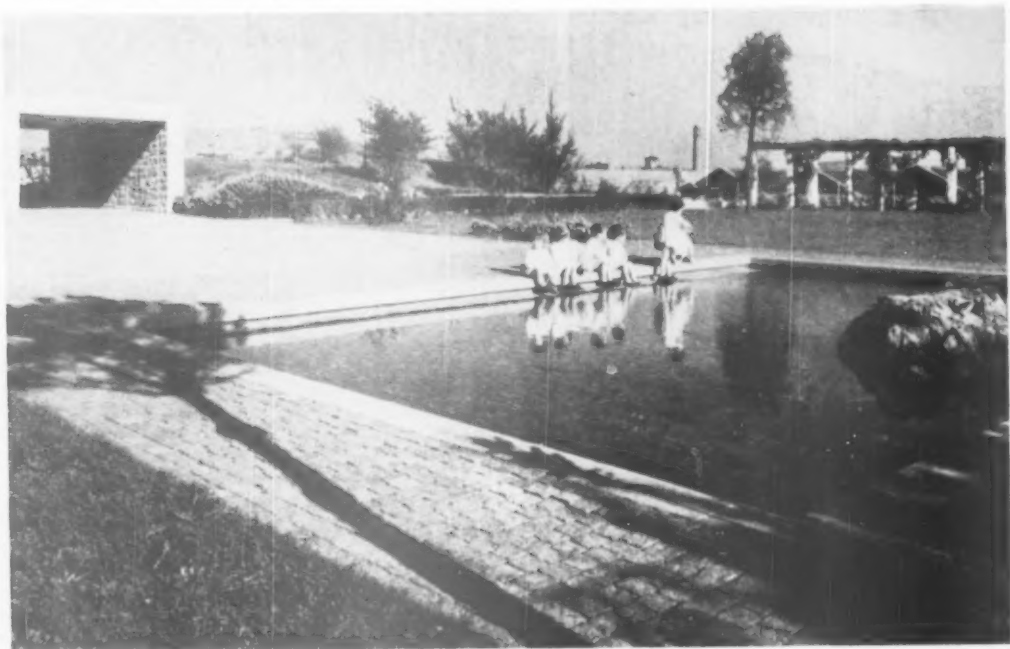






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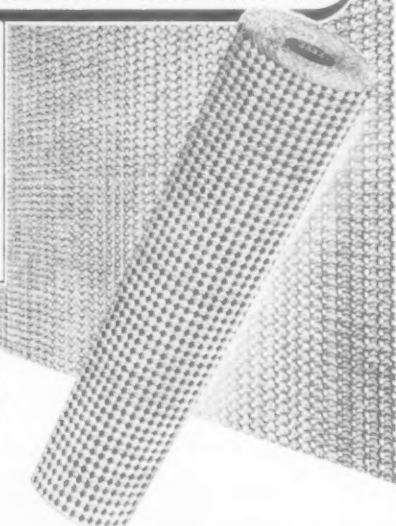
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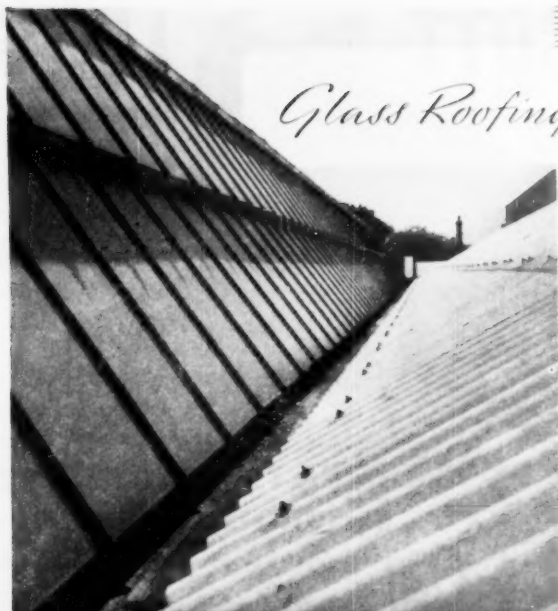
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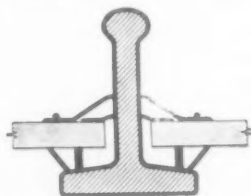
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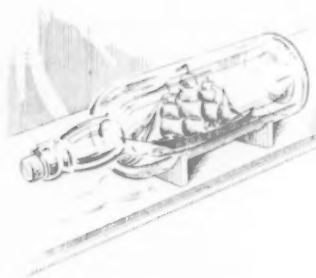
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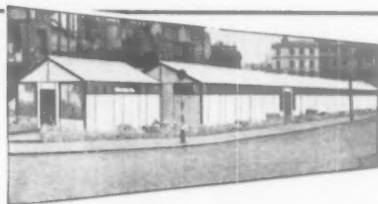
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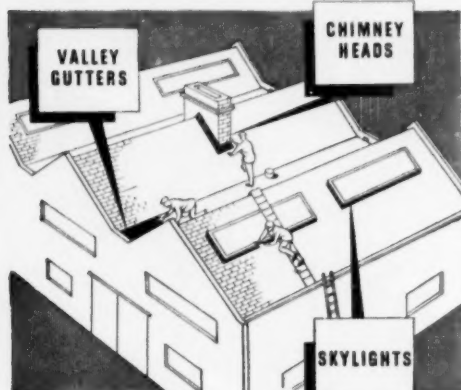
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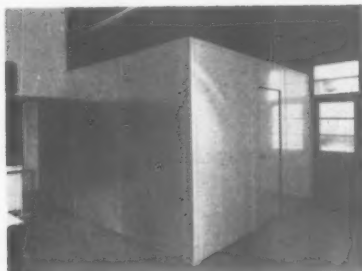
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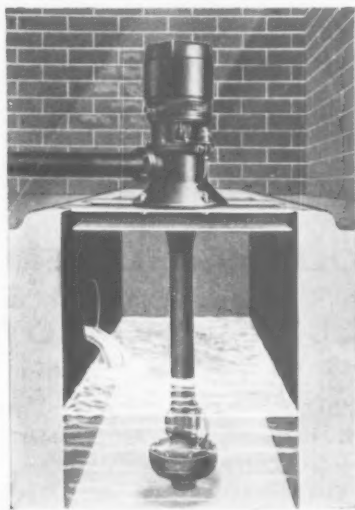
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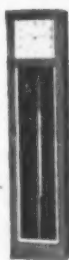
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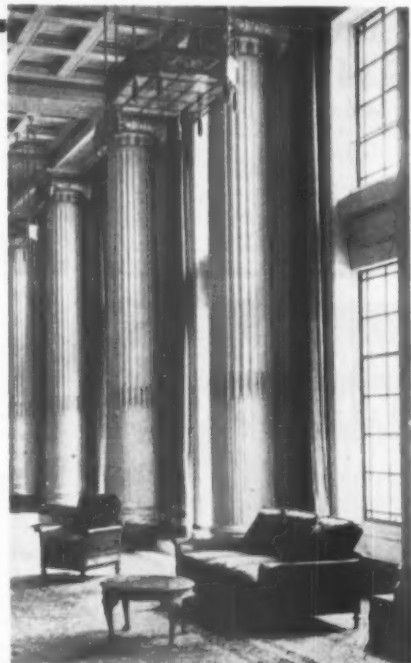
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## OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vacancies advertised are restricted to persons or  
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Control of Engagements Order 1947.

## ILFORD LIMITED.

THE following vacancies have arisen in the Chief  
Staff Architect's Department—

## ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS

Applicants should have reached Intermediate standard  
of R.I.B.A.

## ASSISTANT ARCHITECT

Preference will be given to Associates of  
R.I.B.A.

The work of the Department is both varied and  
interesting and is concerned with factories, offices  
and laboratories of the Company located in the  
Home Counties. The Department's Offices are situated  
in a Country House at Havering within easy  
reach of main transport services in Romford. A  
pension and life assurance scheme is in operation  
and meal facilities are available. Five-day working  
week. Suitable applicants may qualify for staff  
appointment.

Applications in writing, stating age, experience  
and salary required, to Chief Staff Architect, Ilford  
Limited, Romford, Essex. [4310]

## LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

APPLICATIONS are invited for unestablished  
positions of (i) ARCHITECT, Grade III  
(salaries up to £700 a year) and (ii) ARCHITECTURAL  
ASSISTANTS (salaries up to £350 a year)  
in the Housing and Valuation Department. Commencing  
salaries in either grade will be determined  
according to qualifications and experience. Engage-  
ment will be subject to the Local Government  
Superannuation Act, and successful candidates will  
be eligible for consideration for appointment to the  
permanent staff on the occurrence of vacancies.

Successful candidates will be required to undertake  
the design, layout and preparation of working  
drawings for housing schemes (cottages and  
multi-storey flats) and will be employed in the  
Housing Architect's Division. Preference will be  
given to candidates holding a recognised professional  
qualification.

Forms of application may be obtained from the  
Director of Housing, The County Hall, West-  
minster Bridge, S.E.1 (stamped addressed envelope  
required, and quote ref. G.R.5). Canvasing  
disallowed. (C249) [1096]

## NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL.

## COUNTY ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the permanent  
appointment of ENGINEERING ASSISTANT  
on the staff of the County Architect's Department,  
at a salary in accordance with National Grade V  
(£520-£570 per annum).

Candidates must have had good technical training  
and experience in heating and hot water instal-  
lations, gas and steam services, heating and venti-  
lation generally, and must be capable of preparing  
design drawings, calculations, specifications and  
estimates. Preference will be given to candidates  
who have passed the Final examination of the  
Institution of Heating and Ventilating Engineers.

The appointment will be subject to the Local  
Government Officers' Superannuation Act. It is  
a satisfactory medical certificate and in one month's  
notice on either side.

Applications must state clearly age, qualifications,  
details of training experience, previous appoint-  
ments, with dates, salaries, etc., and the names  
and addresses of three persons to whom reference  
may be made. Applications must be delivered to  
Mr. C. H. Thorndike, R.I.B.A., F.R.I.C.S., County  
Architect, 25 Thorpe Road, Norwich, by no later  
than Wednesday 15th March, 1950.

H. OSWALD BROWN, Clerk of the Council,  
County Offices,  
Thorpe Road, Norwich. [4315]

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All positions are progressive and personable,  
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experience and ability. Details of training experience  
and salary expected should be sent to Truscon  
House, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London, S.E.1 (adjacent  
to Waterloo Station). All replies will be  
treated as confidential. [1094]

## MINISTRY OF WORKS.

THERE are vacancies in the Chief Architect's  
Division for Architectural Assistants with recog-  
nised training and fair experience. Successful candi-  
dates will be employed in London and elsewhere  
on a wide variety of Public Buildings, including  
Atomic Energy and other Research Establishments,  
Telephone Exchanges, and Housing.  
Similar vacancies also exist for Assistants with  
specialised knowledge and experience in stone-  
masonry, particularly in detailing and joining of  
ashlar and carved masonry.

Salary: Architectural Assistants £300-£525 per  
annum. Leading Architectural Assistants £400-£625  
plus overtime. Starting pay will be assessed accord-  
ing to age, qualifications and experience. These  
rates are for London; a deduction is made in the  
Provinces.

Although there are not established posts some of  
them have long-term possibilities and competitions  
are held periodically to fill established vacancies.

Apply in writing, stating age, nationality, full details  
of experience, and locality preferred, to Chief  
Architect, W.G.10.T., Ministry of Works, Abell  
House, London, S.W.1. [1095]

## BOROUGH OF HORNSLEY.

## ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT

## APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL

## ASSISTANT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following  
temporary appointment—

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT, Grade 4-III  
A.P.T. Division of the National Scale at a salary  
of £390-£495 per annum plus appropriate London  
Weighting Allowance. Commencing salary accord-  
ing to experience.

Applications stating age, present and previous  
appointments, technical training, qualifications, ex-  
perience, etc., together with the names of three  
references, must be delivered to Mr. J. H. Melville  
Richards, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., Borough  
Engineer and Surveyor, Hornsley Town Hall, N.S.  
not later than the 20th March, 1950 (Monday).

Canvasing either directly or indirectly will  
disqualify.

H. BEDALE, Town Clerk,  
Town Hall, Hornsley, N.S.

20th February, 1950. [34327]

## COUNTY BOROUGH OF EAST HAM.

## BOROUGH ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the undermen-  
tioned appointments—

SENIOR ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT  
(Grade A.P.T. VI). Salary £595 to £660  
per annum.

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT (Grade A.P.T.  
V). Salary £520 to £570 per annum.

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT (Grade A.P.T.  
IV). Salary £480 to £525 per annum.

ENGINEERING ASSISTANT (Grade A.P.T. IV).  
Salary £480 to £525 per annum.

The appropriate London Weighting is paid in  
addition to the above salaries and salaries in excess  
of the minima of the grades may be paid according  
to the qualifications and experience of successful  
candidates.

The Council will be prepared to consider applica-  
tions for a substantive allowance in appropriate  
cases from persons appointed should they be unable  
to obtain suitable housing accommodation.

Full particulars of the duties, terms and condi-  
tions of appointment and form of application (which  
must be returned by Monday, 20th March, 1950)  
may be obtained from the undersigned.

Canvasing in any form will disqualify.

H. A. EDWARDS, Town Clerk,  
Town Hall, East Ham, E.6.

2nd March, 1950. [4318]

## BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL.

APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL  
ASSISTANT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment  
of ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT on the  
staff of the County Land Agent in Grade A.P.T.  
VI of the National Scale of Salaries (£595 to  
£720 plus £25 (1/-) - £660 p.a.) to assist the Agri-  
cultural Surveyor with work on the Council's small-  
holdings and green belt estates. The appointment  
is supernumerary and subject to medical examina-  
tion.

Applicants should have received a thorough train-  
ing in general architectural work and have had  
good experience in design and construction, and  
also in the preparation of working drawings and  
site surveys. Preference will be given to regis-  
tered architects. A weekly allowance of 25s. and  
bi-monthly return fare home may be paid for six  
months to married officers of the Council unable  
to find housing accommodation.

Applications, stating age, qualifications and ex-  
perience, and accompanied by copies of two recent  
testimonials, must be delivered to the County Land  
Agent, County Offices, Aylesbury, by 26th March,  
1950. [4345]

## METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF HACKNEY.

BOROUGH ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S  
DEPARTMENT.APPOINTMENT OF TOWN PLANNING  
ASSISTANT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for this permanent  
appointment at a salary in accordance with  
Grades A.P.T. IV-V (£480 p.a. - £570 p.a.) plus  
London Weighting allowance. The commencing  
salary may be fixed at a point above the minimum  
of the Grade specified according to the qualifica-  
tions and experience of the successful candidate.

Applicants should state fully the extent of their  
training and should have passed a recognised  
examination in Town Planning or provide evidence  
of their intention to do so. Particulars of Town  
Planning experience should be given, and reference  
made to any previous experience or qualifications  
in Civil Engineering or Architecture.

Conditions of appointment and application  
form may be obtained from the undersigned upon  
receipt of a stamped addressed foolscap envelope.  
Completed application forms endorsed "Town  
Planning Assistant" must be returned not later  
than first post on the 20th March, 1950. The  
Council is unable to provide any housing accommo-  
dation.

DUDLEY SORRELL, Town Clerk,  
Town Hall, Hackney, E.8.  
1st March, 1950. [4344]

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE.APPOINTMENT OF STAFF TO ARCHITECT'S  
BRANCH.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following  
appointments in the Architect's Branch of the  
Birmingham Education Department (Architect to the  
Committee, Mr. Alex Steele, A.R.I.B.A.):

(i) SENIOR ASSISTANT ARCHITECT. Salary  
A.P.T. VI (£595 to £660).

Applicants should have had a good general ex-  
perience in the preparation of schemes and work-  
ing drawings and details.

(ii) THREE ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS.

Salary: One A.P.T. IV (£480 to £525).

One A.P.T. III (£450 to £495).

One A.P.T. I (£360 to £415).

Applicants should have had a good general ex-  
perience in the preparation of working drawings  
and details.

(iii) TECHNICAL ASSISTANT. Salary: General  
Division (£315 to £385).

Applicants should be good draughtsmen with  
some experience in the preparation of drawings in  
an architect's office.

(iv) ASSISTANT CLERK OF WORKS. Salary:  
Miscellaneous II (£270 to £310).

Applicants should have had a good technical  
training and experience in building construction and  
materials.

Application forms, which may be obtained from  
the undersigned on receipt of a stamped addressed  
envelope, must be returned not later than three  
weeks after the appearance of this advertisement.

E. L. RUSSELL, Chief Education Officer,  
Education Office,  
Margaret Street, Birmingham. [4348]

# COUNTY BOROUGH OF BURTON UPON TRENT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments in the Architectural Office of the Borough Surveyor—

- (1) QUANTITY SURVEYOR, Grade VII A.P.T. Division (1945 - 1710).
- (2) ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT, Grade VI A.P.T. Division (1595 - 1660).

Preference will be given to candidates who are Associate Members of the appropriate Institute.

The appointments will be subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, to determination by one month's written notice on either side, and to the successful candidates passing a medical examination by the Medical Officer of Health.

Applications in sealed envelopes, stating age, qualifications and experience, and accompanied by copies of three recent testimonials, must be delivered to the Borough Surveyor, Town Hall, Burton upon Trent, not later than 10 a.m. on Wednesday, the 22nd March, 1950.

H. BAILEY CHAPMAN, Town Clerk.  
Town Hall, Burton upon Trent.  
2nd March, 1950. [4342]

## STATES OF GUERNSEY.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments in the Public Works Department. The appointments are permanent and the salaries are subject to a cost-of-living bonus of £50 per annum for a married man or £25 for a single man.

### QUANTITY SURVEYOR

Salary £600 per annum, rising by annual increments of £20 to £650 per annum, plus cost-of-living bonus.

Applicants should be Associate Members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, and have had thorough experience in the preparation of specifications for housing sites, schools and public buildings, including take-off and billing of building quantities and measuring up of work for interim and final certificates, etc.

### GENERAL ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT, Grade II

Salary £350 per annum, rising by annual increments of £15 to £600 per annum, plus cost-of-living bonus.

Applicants must be Registered Architects and preferably Corporate Members of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and must have a thorough knowledge of architectural works, with practical experience in the design and development of public buildings of all types and the preparation of working drawings and specifications.

Candidates must not be over 45 years of age, and the successful applicants will be required to pass a medical examination.

The appointments will be terminable by one month's notice on either side.

Applicants should indicate, in the following order—

- (a) The specific appointment applied for.
- (b) Name and address.
- (c) Age.
- (d) Educational training.
- (e) Professional qualifications.
- (f) Present position, salary and date of appointment.
- (g) Previous positions, with salaries and dates of appointments.
- (h) Detailed particulars of experience.
- (i) Any further remarks in support of application.
- (j) Notice required to terminate present appointment.

Applications, endorsed "Technical Assistants" together with copies of two recent testimonials, should reach the undersigned not later than noon on Monday, 27th March, 1950.

Canvassing in any form will be disqualifying.  
L. A. GUILLEMETTE, States Supervisor,  
States Office, Guernsey.  
21st February, 1950. [4343]

## CRAWLEY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Require an ARCHITECT within the salary scale of £750 x £90 - £1,000.

Applicants should have first class experience in design of housing, industrial buildings, public buildings, etc., and must be fully qualified; town planning experience would be an advantage.

Contributory superannuation.  
Form of application and further particulars should be obtained from the Chief Architect, A. G. Shepherd, Fidler, M.A., B.Arch., F.R.I.B.A., A.M.E.P.I., Broadfield, Crawley, Sussex, to whom the completed application must be returned not later than the 27th March, 1950.

C. A. G. TURNER, Chief Executive.  
2nd March, 1950. [4349]

## METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF HACKNEY.

### BOROUGH ENGINEER AND SURVEYORS DEPARTMENT

#### ARCHITECTURAL SECTION

APPLICATIONS are invited for the undermentioned permanent appointments at salaries in accordance with the scales indicated.

In each case the commencing salary may be fixed at a point above the minimum of the Grade specified, according to the qualifications and experience of the successful candidates.

#### ASSISTANT ARCHITECT

One appointment, Grade A.P.T. VI(a)-VI (1550 p.a. - 1660 p.a.) plus London Weighting allowance. Candidates must have had a good general experience in design and construction and hold an appropriate professional qualification. In addition to general architectural work the successful candidate will be required to undertake the oversight of the maintenance of Council's properties, including the preparation of specifications for, and the technical supervision of repairs thereto.

Two appointments, Grades A.P.T. III-IV (1450 p.a. - 1525 p.a.) plus London Weighting allowance. Candidates must have had a good architectural training and must have passed the R.I.B.A. Intermediate or equivalent examination.

Two appointments, Grades A.P.T. II-III (1420 p.a. - 1495 p.a.) plus London Weighting allowance. Candidates must have had a good architectural training and preference will be given to those who have passed the R.I.B.A. Intermediate or equivalent examination.

Conditions of appointments and application forms may be obtained from the undersigned upon receipt of a stamped addressed foolscap envelope.

Completed application forms, endorsed with the designation and grade of the post applied for, must be returned not later than first post on the 27th March, 1950. The Council is unable to provide any housing accommodation.

DUDDLEY SORRELL, Town Clerk.  
Town Hall, Hackney, E.8.  
26th February, 1950. [4342]

## AVCLIFFE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

### ARCHITECTURAL DEPARTMENT

#### APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT ARCHITECT FOR HOUSING WORK

APPLICATIONS are invited for the above appointment in the Department of the Chief Architect (G. A. Goldstraw, B.A. (Hons.), A.R.I.B.A.) at a salary in accordance with Grade A.P.T. V of the National Scheme of Conditions of Service, namely £520 per annum rising by two annual increments of £15 and one of £20 to a maximum of £570 per annum.

The appointment will be subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, and housing accommodation will be available if necessary.

Applications, stating age, qualifications, previous experience and present appointment and salary, should be forwarded to the undersigned to arrive not later than the 19th March, 1950.

A. W. THOMAS, General Manager.  
Newton Axcliffe, Nr. Darlington.  
1st March, 1950. [4322]

## SORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL.

### COUNTY ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT

APPLICATIONS are invited for the permanent appointment of ASSISTANT ARCHITECT at a salary in accordance with National Grade VI (1595-1660 per annum). Candidates must be registered architects and must hold a recognised architectural qualification; they must have had a sound knowledge of design, construction and specifications. The appointment will be subject to the Local Government Officers' Superannuation Acts, to a satisfactory medical certificate, and to one month's notice on either side. National Scheme of Conditions of Service will apply.

Applications must state clearly age, qualifications, full details of training, experience and previous appointments, with dates, salaries and designations, the names and addresses of three persons to whom reference may be made must be stated. Application must be delivered to C. H. Thurston, L.R.I.B.A., F.R.I.C.S., County Architect, 25 Thorpe Road, Norwich, by not later than Wednesday, 15th March, 1950.

H. OSWALD BROWN, Clerk of the Council.  
County Offices,  
Thorpe Road, Norwich. [4332]

## EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments on the permanent staff of the County Architect's Department—

- (a) ASSISTANT BUILDING SURVEYOR, Salary A.P.T. Grade V, £520-£570 per annum.

Candidates should possess appropriate qualifications and experience of all branches of building.

They should be capable of preparing specifications, schedules, reports and estimates for maintenance and minor capital works, the surveying of sites and existing structures in connection with improvements and adaptations, etc. and measurement and progressing of work of all trades.

The successful candidate will be required to provide a motor car, in respect of which a mileage allowance will be paid in accordance with the Council's scale.

- (b) QUANTITY SURVEYOR, ASSISTANT, Salary A.P.T. Grade III, £450 - £495 per annum.

Applicants should have had experience in a Quantity Surveyor's or Builder's office, and be capable of preparing Bills of Materials, Specifications, etc. measurement and the settlement of Final Accounts.

The appointments, which are terminable by one month's notice on either side, are subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, and the successful candidate will be required to pass a medical examination.

Applications, stating age, training, qualifications and experience, with particulars of past and present employment, with salaries and accompanied by copies of three recent testimonials, must be received by the County Architect, County Hall, Beverley, not later than Friday, 17th March, 1950. Applicants should disclose relationship to any member of senior officer of the Council and canvassing will be a disqualification.

T. STEPHENSON, Clerk of the Council.  
County Hall, Beverley.  
February, 1950. [4331]

## LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

### VACANCIES FOR TEMPORARY CLERKS OF WORKS IN ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT

APPLICATIONS are invited for TEMPORARY CLERKS OF WORKS to supervise the work of painting and cleaning contracts at Council schools for a period of 6 months from 1st April, 1950.

Rate of pay-up to 19 1/2% a week.  
Application forms from the Architect (AR.P.C.W.), County Hall, Westminster Bridge, S.E.1, enclosing stamped addressed foolscap envelope. Canvassing disqualifies. (266) [4340]

## CITY AND COUNTY OF KINGSTON-UPON-HILL.

### CITY ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of ASSISTANT QUANTITY SURVEYOR, Grade VI, A.P.T. Division (1595 - 1660) in the Quantity Surveyor's Section of the Department, in which a varied and interesting programme of work offers valuable experience.

The appointment will be subject to one month's notice on either side and to the National Scheme of Conditions of Service.  
Application forms, obtainable from the undersigned, should be returned, complete, on or before 24th March, 1950.

ANDREW RANKINE, A.R.I.B.A.,  
City Architect.  
Guildhall, Kingston-upon-Hill.  
17th February, 1950. [4341]

## LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

### PARKS DEPARTMENT

VACANCIES FOR ARCHITECTURAL SURVEYING AND LANDSCAPE ASSISTANTS for work in connection with the preparation of surveys, sketch schemes, working drawings and specifications for buildings at parks and open spaces and laying out of new parks, sports grounds, gardens and ground at housing estates, schools, etc. Positions subject to Local Government Superannuation Acts.

Rate of pay up to £580 according to qualifications and experience.

Application forms from Chief Officer of the Parks Department, The Old County Hall, Spring Gardens, S.W.1. Canvassing disqualifies. (270) [4339]

## LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

## ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT

Architect to the Council—Robert H. Matthew.  
Deputy Architect—J. L. Martin.

APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOLS ARCHITECT,  
ASSISTANT SCHOOLS ARCHITECT AND  
PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT (PROFESSIONAL).

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following positions in the Architect's Department—  
(1) SCHOOLS ARCHITECT—£1,500 x £100—£1,700. Responsible to the Architect for the Schools Division.  
(2) ASSISTANT SCHOOLS ARCHITECT—£1,250 x £75—£1,550. To assist the Schools Architect, mainly in the sphere of design.  
(3) PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT (Professional)—£600 x £40—£1,000 x £50—£1,100. To take charge of a group in the Schools Division.  
No age limits. Experience of public architecture not essential.

Form of application obtainable from the Architect to the Council, The County Hall, Westminster Bridge, London, S.E.1. Stamped addressed form can envelope necessary. Letters should be marked AR.P.S. Application forms to be returned not later than 31st March, 1950.  
Caricaturing disqualifies. (257) [4370]

CARMARTHENSHIRE EDUCATION  
COMMITTEE.

## LLANELLY TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the post of full-time ASSISTANT MASTER IN BUILDING. Applicants should be fully qualified to teach building subjects to Ordinary and Higher National Certificate standard, and should preferably have professional qualifications to take Builders' Qualities.

Salary in accordance with the provisions of the Burnham Scale of Salaries for Teachers in Technical Institutions, with increments for previous teaching and/or industrial experience.

Application forms, which must be returned within two weeks of the appearance of this advertisement, may be obtained from the undersigned on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

IORWERTH HOWELLS

Director of Education.

County Education Office,  
County Hall, Carmarthen. [4356]

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC WORKS  
DEPARTMENT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments in the Architectural Section of the Public Works Department—

(a) ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS  
(b) ARCHITECTURAL DRAUGHTSMEN

Candidates for post (a) should have passed the Intermediate Examination of the Royal Institute of British Architects and have had at least one year's experience in an architectural office.  
Candidates for post (b) should hold the Higher National Certificate in Building.

The commencing salary will be £480 per annum, rising by annual increments to £525 per annum, in accordance with Grade A.P.T. IV of the National Scales.

The appointment will be subject to one month's notice on either side and to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1917.

The successful candidates will be required to pass a medical examination.

Applications, stating age, qualifications and experience, and giving the names and addresses of two persons to whom reference can be made, should reach the undersigned not later than 31st March, 1950.

HERBERT I. MANZONI

City Engineer and Surveyor.

The Civic Centre, Birmingham, 1. [4355]

## SERVICES OFFERED

CURRIE (Builders' Services) Ltd., estimate and undertake Property and War Damage Repairs and Building Construction to Surveyors' Specification—258 Romford Road, E.7. (Mar. 1949) [4353]

F COLLISON & Co. (Walsby & Co. Ltd., 21 King Street, Chorley, Lancs. E.C.2 (est. over 40 years). Secretarial Services, Typewriting and Duplicating. Balance sheets and architects' specifications a speciality—Phone MONarch 2436. [4233]

## COUNTY BOROUGH OF EAST HAM.

## HOUSING DEPARTMENT

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointment—

CHIEF TECHNICAL ASSISTANT Grade A.P.T. VIII (1945—£750 per annum) at a commencing salary of £735 per annum plus appropriate London Weighting. Applicants should be Associate Members of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and have had experience in design of modern housing and areas of housing redevelopment. The possession of a Town Planning qualification will be an advantage.

Full particulars of the duties, terms and conditions of appointment and form of application, which must be returned by 31st March, 1950, can be obtained from the undersigned.

H. A. EDWARDS, Town Clerk.

Town Hall, East Ham, E.6.  
March, 1950. [4335]

## CONTRACTS

## STATES OF GUERNSEY.

## HOUSING AUTHORITY

PORT SOIF, GRANDES ROCQUES—  
58 HOUSES.

TENDERS are invited for

(a) The erection of 58 thirty-eight houses on a site at Port Soif, Grandes Rocques, Castel.  
(b) The construction of roads, footpaths and ancillary works.

Plans, Specifications and Forms of Tender for either or both of these contracts may be obtained at the office of the undersigned upon payment of £2 in the case of the houses only, or £1 for the roads only. These sums will be returned on the receipt of bona-fide tenders and the return of the plans and all documents.

Tenders in separate envelopes addressed to the States Housing Authority, Hadley House, Lefebvre Street, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, and endorsed "Tender for Houses, Port Soif," or "Tender for Roads, Port Soif," must be delivered at the office of the Authority not later than noon on Monday, 27th March, 1950.

G. HEGGS, States Engineer.

States Office, Guernsey. [4352]  
21st February, 1950.

## ROCHDALE COUNTY BOROUGH.

TENDERS are invited for the erection of 220

DWELLINGS on the Kirkholt Estate.  
Box of Quantities, plans and form of tender may be obtained from W. H. G. Mervin, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E., Borough Surveyor, Town Hall, Rochdale, on payment of a deposit of Five Guineas, which amount will be returned on receipt of a bona-fide tender not subsequently withdrawn.

Sealed tenders, endorsed "220 Dwellings," must be delivered at my office not later than 10 a.m. on Friday, the 31st March, 1950.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest tender.

K. B. MOORE, Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Rochdale.  
6th March, 1950. [4356]

ARCHITECTURAL APPOINTMENTS  
VACANT

ARCHITECTURAL Assistant required in the Swansea office of Sir Percy Thomas & Son, 2 Northampton Gardens. Point of entry in salary according to experience. Write, stating details of qualifications and experience. [4335]

PROMINENT positions available for competent Senior Assistants in established London office. Salary according to experience up to £650 per annum—Box 2587, The Architect and Building News. [4312]

PROMINENT firm of London Architects requires qualified Architectural Assistants and Junior Assistants of intermediate standard for varied practice. Salary by arrangement. West End office—Box 2726, The Architect and Building News. [4334]

WANTED immediately, experienced Assistant, preferably Schools.—Apply E. B. Musman, B.A., F.R.I.B.A., 12 Upper Berkeley Street, W.1. (Pald. 71141). State qualifications, salary. [4354]

ARCHITECTURAL APPOINTMENTS  
VACANT

QUALIFIED Architect and Surveyor to take charge of Architectural Department in Chartered Land Agents and Surveyors' office in North Wales. Basic salary and share in profits.—Apply Box 47, W. H. Smith & Son Ltd., Denbigh, N. Wales. [4346]

ARCHITECT'S Assistant required. Must be good draughtsman, working drawings, details and good knowledge of construction. Experience in supervision an asset.—Write, stating previous experience and salary required, to H. S. Goodhart-Rendel & Partners, 15 Crawford Street, London, W.1. [4350]

## SITUATIONS VACANT

ARCHITECTURAL Metal Workers require a Designer-Draughtsman of considerable merit. Top salaried position for skilled man.—Apply The Morris Singer Company, Hope House, Gt. Porter Street, Westminster, S.W.1. [4099]

GENERAL Foreman required to take complete charge of reinforced concrete building in London area.—Write Lavender McMillan Ltd., 54 Cheam Common Road, Worcester Park, Surrey. [4320]

FIRST Class Representative with established connection required to represent North Western Reinforced Concrete Specialists, Designers and Consultants, preferably with own office accommodation. Good prospects to right man. Applicants should be resident in the Newcastle-on-Tyne, Birmingham, Nottingham, Bristol, Cardiff and Glasgow areas. Box 2725, The Architect and Building News. [4329]

REQUIRED as Service Inspector, an active structural or civil engineer who has had considerable experience in responsible supervising capacity in the erection of reinforced concrete structures, preferably with some design experience. Will be required to travel extensively in the British Isles, but must live in the London area. Attributes required are agreeable personality, sound judgement on erection problems, and able to write concise factual reports. Write, giving full details and salary required to Managing Director, The Trussed Concrete Steel Co. Ltd., 35-41 Lower Marsh, S.E.1. [4093]

REQUIRED Senior Surveyor, Structural Department. Experience in preparation of Specifications, Plans, Bills of Quantities and supervising building contracts essential.—Write, stating experience and salary required, to "B. D." Messrs Knight, Frank & Rutley, 20 Hanover Square, W.1. [4351]

## FOR SALE

ALL Mouldings, Plain and Embossed and Embossed Ornaments, Numerous designs. Davey's Moulding Mills Ltd., 60 Pownall Road, Dalston, E.8. [4086]

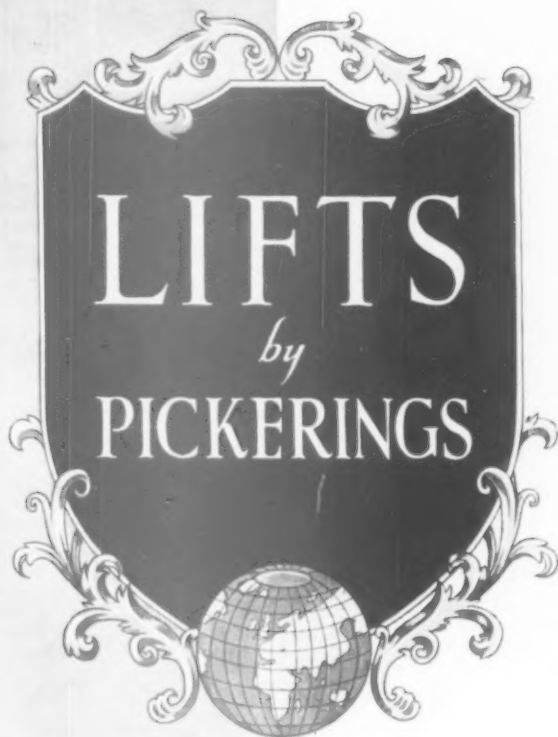
ASBESTOS Roofing Slates. All sizes in small or large quantities from 24in. x 12in. to 36in. x 36in. including Diagonals.—G. Parker Ellis Ltd., 7 The Parade, Llanfair-nan-Siwan. [4089]

NISSEN Type Hats, ex-Government stock, all reconditioned and supplied ready for erection. All sizes in 4ft. multiples, 4ft. x 16ft., 4ft. x 18ft., 4ft. x 24ft., 4ft. x 36ft., 4ft. x 48ft., 6ft. x 16ft., 6ft. x 18ft., 6ft. x 24ft., 6ft. x 36ft., 6ft. x 48ft. Delivered U.K. Plasterboard butts and other building materials. Some 24ft. span Nissens.—Write, call or telephone, Universal Supplies (Belvedere) Ltd., Dept. 32, Crabtree Manorway, Belvedere, Kent. Tel. No. Erith 2948. [4057]

WEXWOOD'S Lift, goods or passenger, safe approx. 10ft. x 7ft. Voltage 400/150, in most excellent condition, for sale at a fraction of its value. Dismantled near London—Box 2802, The Architect and Building News. [4347]

SEASONED Timber. Why not purchase your requirements direct from the sawmills? Stocks of 1in. 2in. and 3in., etc. Oak and other species. Price quoted immediately on knowing your requirements.—Lighthwater Sawmills, Ambleside Road, Lighthwater, Surrey. Bagshot 341. [4101]





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